

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXVIII.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 11th JULY, 1905.

No. 2

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	17
Leading Articles:	
Mercantile Information Agencies	18
Chinese in Hongkong	19
Philippines and Free Trade	19
The Sanitary Board	20
The Situation in Persia	20
Typhoon Refuge Question	21
Supreme Court	22
Cholera at Canton	24
A Shanghai Libel Action	24
The Great Flood	24
Kulangau (Assy) Municipal Council	24
Hongkong Sanitary Board	25
The Proposed Typhoon Refuge	26
Death of a German Consul	28
Plague in Saigon	28
A Promising Barrister-at-Law	28
Sir Walter Hillier's Appointment	28
Wholesale Poisoning of Soldiers in Indo-China	28
A Canton Tragedy	29
Interesting to Piece Goods Merchants	29
Canton	29
Commercial	30
Shipping	32

BIRTH.

On July 1st, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. TAYLOR THOMAS, a daughter.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of the 12th June and the parcel mails closed in London for despatch by the all sea route on the 3rd June, and for despatch overland on 10th June arrived on the 9th inst per P. & O. steamer *Marmora*.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

On July 1st the revised rules governing the importation of arms and ammunition into China came into force.

The autumn manoeuvres of the Chinese Army will take place on the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st November.

The Board of Civil Administration has ordered provinces to abolish provincial forces and to establish police forces instead.

A Tairen despatch reports that the freight rates of the South Manchurian Railway will be revised from July 1st, a general reduction being made.

Mr. J. W. Innocent, lately Deputy Commissioner of the Indian Staff of the Imperial Maritime Customs in Shanghai, has been appointed Acting Commissioner at Ningpo.

The total cholera cases and deaths in the Philippines since 1st January is given in a Manila paper as 4,285 cases and 2,942 deaths. The latest returns show that the epidemic is "yielding slowly."

The latest census of the Japanese population in Korea shows a total of 1,042,1. The figures show an increase of 17,187 in twelve months. The number of Japanese houses in Korea is returned as 29,126.

Among the passengers by the "Wakasa Maru" which left on July 8th at daylight was Mr. T. Wright, who after four years' service as Editor of the "Daily Press" is returning to England.

It is reported in Japan that the President of the Mitsu Bishi Dockyard and Engine Works at Nagasaki, who has recently returned from a tour in China secured a contract for the construction of three warships.

"L'Echo de Chine" states that the Swiss Government is negotiating with the Government at Peking with reference to the contemplated appointment of a Minister and Consuls to represent the Helvetian Republic in China.

A Committee of the Portuguese Chamber of Deputies has recently examined the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation concluded between Portugal and China at Shanghai on November 11, 1904; but beyond this no statement is published.

A bazaar, the first ever attempted by Chinese, was opened at Hongkong on Friday afternoon by His Excellency the Governor in presence of a large gathering of Chinese and Europeans. The object of the bazaar is to raise funds for the sufferers by the floods on the West and North Rivers and as local firms of all nationalities have contributed freely it is expected that a good sum will be netted as the result of the seven days' sales.

Dr. F. Kruger, formerly German Consul at Hongkong, and now German Consul-General at Seoul, has been touring in Manchuria. He returned to Seoul on the 27th ult. Dr. Kruger expects to be going home early in August on a furlough of six months. During his absence, the Consulate-General will be in charge of Dr. Wendschuh, Vice-Consul at Manila.

A curious incident took place in Changsha the other day. All the foreigners in the City received a communication from the Taotai requesting them to remain within their own doors for a period of four days as a religious festival was in progress, and the Taotai could not hold himself responsible for the safety of foreigners who would venture among the crowds in the streets.

Judge Smith, an American jurist who has just returned to Manila from a holiday spent on the China coast, praises the American diplomats in China. He is reported to have said, "We have there a fine set of officials, men jealous of their country's standing in the eyes of foreigners, ever anxious to promote America's interests, and particularly well adapted to the requirements of their office."

Among the passengers by the s.s. "Marmora" on July 9th was Lieut. Francisco Figueira, his wife and two children. Lieut. Figueira is en route to Macao. He will be remembered as the orderly officer who was driving with the late King Carlos when His Majesty was assassinated, and was afterwards presented by the Queen with the sword which the King wore at the time of his death.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Tokyo, July 8th said:—Judgment was delivered in the "Agenor" case. The appeal of Lewis and Hill was quashed and they were ordered to pay Frazer 22,700 yen in respect of the loss of ship and cargo.

Mr. W. Cameron Forbes has been appointed Vice-Governor General of the Philippine Islands. Sr. Gregorio Araneta now Attorney-General, has been appointed Secretary of Finance and Justice. Judge Gilbert, of the Court of First Instance, is to be a member of the Commission in place of Sr. Benito L. garda, and a newly-created seat on the commission has been filled by Sr. Rafael Palma.

The Brazilian training ship "Benjamin Constant," is expected to arrive at Hongkong this week. She is a protected cruiser of 2,707 tons, 236 feet in length, and 45 feet beam. She was built in France in 1894. Her indicated horse power is 2,800. She has two-inch armoured decks, and carries 4 six-inch, eight 47 and eight 4-inch machine guns, and her speed is 14 knots. She is used solely as a training ship for cadets.

A Tientsin telegram to the "N. C. Daily News" reports that construction work on the German section of the Tientsin-Pukon Railway was formally inaugurated on the 30th ult. by their Excellencies Lu Hai-huan, Director of the Railway, and the Viceroy of Chihli. A brilliant gathering, including six hundred foreigners, attended the ceremony and cordial speeches were made. The Emperor William sent his congratulations.

Rev. Bro. Stephen leaves for London, by the English Mail steamer to-day on a well-earned holiday. He has been connected with St Joseph's College for close on twelve years. He came out direct from Ireland in 1897 and since then he has laboured strenuously to raise the standard of the school. Six years ago he took charge of the Oxford Class, and his work was always crowned with success. He leaves now with best wishes from his numerous friends for a pleasant voyage and a speedy return.

The original action, *Leung Lai-wan and others v. Reuter, Brockelmann and Co.* reached the eighth day of hearing on July 8th when evidence was proceeded with. There is a congestion of work just now at the Supreme Court, and in order to gain time for the hearing of the cases set down this Honour the Chief Justice a notified that he had arranged with the Puisne Judge to take the Criminal Sessions. On Tuesday or Wednesday next he would be able to make definite arrangements regarding the hearing of the cases pending.

There was an official dinner at Government House on July 1th at which the following were present:—Mr. and Mrs. Abbott, Captain and Mrs. Ryley, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Bird, Captain and Mrs. Beer, Captain and Mrs. Finck, Mr. and Mrs. Coke, Mr. and Mrs. Gedge, Mr. Teidmann, Mr. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Stewart, Dr. and Mrs. Forayth, Mr. P. Kremer, Mr. H. C. B. Haddock, Mr. and Mrs. Halifax, Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Stoddart, Mr. Blaneflower, Mr. H. P. White, Lt. Colonel Bridgeman (H.M.S. "Bramble"), Mr. and Mrs. Foster Nicholson, Mr. D. nny, Col. and Mrs. Glover, and Mr. S. B. C. Rott. The following were unavoidably prevented from being present:—Capt. B. Lind (S.V.S. "Jaguar"), Commr. Ross (S.M.S. "Taiguan"), and Colonel and Mrs. Carter.

Rain fell in Peking at the end of June, and this being regarded as an answer to the prayers of the throne Prince Li, Prince Chun and other Princes and Dukes are ordered by Imperial Decree to burn incense at various temples as an expression of thanks and to pray for more.

The Peking Government has wired to the Viceroy of Szechuen and also to the Imperial Resident of Tibet instructing both of them to raise funds for the opening of the trade marts of Tibet and for the construction of the Szechuen-Tibet Railway.

Mr. M. H. Hasanoff, partner and manager in the firm of Ommid & Co., tea merchants, Shanghai, committed suicide last week by shooting himself through the head with a revolver. Deceased had been ailing for some time and was being medically attended. He left a letter saying that he was tired of his life and intended to do away with himself.

The number of Japanese flocking into Manchuria increases each month. Last March 24,037 names were registered of whom 22,684 were men and 1,353 women. These figures show a great increase on the number which arrived during February. During March 5,921 Japanese left Manchuria, which is 192 less than in February. Of the arrivals in March 696 were classified as merchants and 698 as workmen; the occupations of the remainder were not recorded.

It is reported from Taichou, one of the prefectural cities of Chekiang, that a soldier has severely wounded a student of the Nanshien school there, and that, as a protest, the whole school have gone on "strike." The students held a meeting, and it was decided to demand the punishment of the soldier. Efforts, says the *Hankow Mail*, are being made by the faculty of the school and the authorities to persuade the students to resume work, but, so far, without avail.

Mr. J. Byrne-Hackett, late Secretary of the Country Club, Shanghai, left for home aboard the s.s. "America Maru." It was recently announced, says the *Mercury*, that through sickness Mr. Byrne-Hackett had temporarily resigned from his position, and while it was hoped that he would very shortly be able to resume his duties his health was found to be such as to necessitate his leaving Shanghai. There was a very large crowd of friends at the jetty to see him off, and many were the hearty wishes for a speedy recovery.

Fifty of Manila's leading Chinese merchants were the hosts of Hon. Mr. Su-Yu-Tohn, retiring Chinese Consul General at Manila, at a dinner given a week ago at the Hotel Metropole. The dinner, says the *Cablenews*, was served in the roof garden which was gaily decorated with the Chinese ensign entwined with the Stars and Stripes. An excellent menu was served and during the course of the dinner an orchestra played an excellent programme of music. A few days later a dinner was given in honour of the new Chinese Consul General, who has already entered upon the duties of his office.

A Nanking telegram to the "N.-C. Daily News" states that Mr. A. H. Collinson, until recently Engineer-in-Chief of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, has been appointed, by Viceroy Tuan Fang, Advisory and Consulting Engineer of the Liangkiang Provinces. Our contemporary remarks that general satisfaction will be felt that the eminent services of Mr. A. H. Collinson, the engineer of China's premier railway, have not been lost to the country. Viceroy Tuan Fang's shrewd selection places a distinguished engineer and an able organizer at the head of all railway, and, presumably mining enterprises in the three provinces of Kiangsu, Anhui and Kiangsi.

The proprietors of opium houses in the International Settlement, says our Shanghai morning contemporary, are evidently bent upon "making hay while the sun shines." It is reported that since the closing of twenty-five per cent of the houses on the 1st instant, the owners of the remaining houses have increased the price of opium. The reason is obvious—while the number of holders of licences to retail opium is decreased by twenty-five per cent, the demand for opium and the number of consumers remains approximately the same, and licences, with a maximum of eighteen months and minimum of six months in which to carry on their present occupation, naturally wish to make the most of their opportunity.

The Grand Council proposes to make Kaigan an open port after the completion of the construction of the Peking-Kaigan Railway. The present superintendent will probably be replaced by a Taotai.

Vice-Admiral Sir Hedworth Lambton, Commander-in-Chief of the British China Squadron, arrived at Chemulpo on Sunday, the 21st June, on board the despatch vessel *Alacrity*. The following day the Admiral proceeded to Seoul and in company with Mr. Cockburn, British Consul-General, paid a visit to H. E. the Resident-General (Prince Ito) who received them in full uniform. The following day Prince Ito presented the Admiral to His Majesty the Emperor of Korea. Commander Fuller, of the *Alacrity*, Secretary Motton and Flag Lieutenant Mullneux were also presented, and at noon His Excellency entertained the distinguished visitor at lunch. Twenty-seven covers were laid.

A telegraphic summary of Mr. Clement's analyses of the statistics with regard to opium smoking in China was headed by a Ceylon paper "A Revelation from Hongkong!" A correspondent, signing himself "Pekin," wrote however to say that the figures are by no means a revelation to people thoroughly conversant with the Chinese and their mode of living. "I can speak from 10 years' intimate association with the country," he says, "and should certainly not estimate more than 2 per cent. of the population of China as being opium smokers. In very many districts one never comes across an opium smoker at all, except in the opium dens, which are few and far between, more especially in the out-of-the-way places."

An International Race Club is being formed in Shanghai. Many of the most respectable and influential Chinese residents are according their hearty support, and the native element, which has hitherto had opportunity to participate in local horse racing, is expected to figure largely in the meetings of the new Club. An excellent site for the race course has been secured in the Siccawei district, and the preliminary work on the track is already in hand. The headquarters of the Club will be at the premises formerly known as E-Yuen Gardens, adjoining the Taotai's Yamen on Bubbling Well Road. In a communication to the Press, the Secretary observes:—"In view of the fact that at several of the important Far Eastern ports, as Singapore, Penang and Batavia, the local native and Chinese sportsmen take an active part in horse racing in conjunction with European residents, there seems to be reason to suppose that there is room in Shanghai for an institution in which foreign and native sportsmen may successfully co-operate in 'the sport of kings.' Such co-operation is now flourishing in Japan. No gambling of any kind is to be permitted in connection with the meetings of the Club, other than betting on the results of the races, as admitted and conducted by all other Race Clubs."

Mr. F. S. Parker, now the Professor of Chinese at Manchester University, has long been favourably known for his researches into the numberless dialects that prevail throughout the Empire. He is also known as a skilled translator of the modern language, in which he is an acknowledged authority. Many of our readers will be pleased to learn that he has been recently engaged on a history of the beginnings of Chinese history, a field which, though many attempts have been made, still for all useful purposes remains in much the same position as it did two centuries ago. Professor Parker's work, we are pleased to learn, is now in the hands of the publishers, Messrs. Chapman and Hall Ltd., and is shortly expected to appear under the title of "Ancient China Simplified." Many of Professor Parker's friends will be interested in learning whether he has in any way altered his views on these much discussed topics, and brought his views into closer concordance with those generally accepted by the rest of the world. China is, it is true, a peculiar country, but history is founded rather on consonances than dissidences, and we have no right to assume that China is an exception to the universal rule. The History is made to begin with the expulsion of the Cheds from their old capital near Si-an Fu, so that the work is mainly confined to periods within times usually accepted as historical. We hope to be soon in a position to comment on the work at length.

The recapture of Hekow by the Imperialists from the rebels in Yunnan has, says the "Straits Times," been followed by a revival of trade, which had been at a standstill from the moment the revolutionists held that city in force. Goods intended for the province remained at Haiphong, and Chinese carriers refused to run risks. The Railway Company has taken advantage of this change for the better for opening another station on the frontier. Traders at Haiphong lost no time in forwarding their stocks into Yunnan.

We learn officially, says the "Bangkok Times" June 24, that the East Asiatic Co. Ltd., have sold the whole of their fleet of steamers trading between Singapore and Bangkok and coast, and between Bangkok and Chantaboon to a new Siamese Company called the Siam Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. This Company has been formed to take over this business and the capital of Tcs. 2,000,000, has been fully subscribed, a large block of shares being taken by the East Asiatic Company themselves. A number of prominent Siamese are interested and hold shares in the new company. The fleet which passes under the management of the new owners on July 1st, includes the Mahidol, Yugala, Asdang, Boribat, Redang and Ohak-rabhongs, and a new vessel designed specially for the Bangkok-Chantaboon run, which is expected to arrive in Bangkok in about three months time. The East Asiatic Co. Ltd. have been appointed Managing Agents for the new Company. The Board of Directors consists of five members three of whom are Europeans and two Siamese.

Prince Ito, the Resident-General at Seoul, is being criticised by Seoul correspondents of the Japanese papers for confirming the Collbran-Bostwick Development Co. in the possession of an important copper-mine concession at Kapsan, North Korea. When the mining law was brought into force recently it appears that several applications were received for this concession from Koreans and Japanese, but prior to this Mr. Collbran had produced to the Residency-General a license granted by the Emperor Father (then the Emperor) in February, 1905, insisting that he had already obtained the Kapsan mining concession. The Korean Government were, however, unaware of the granting of the said license and held that it was by no means a legal right. Such privileges had hitherto been also enjoyed by Japanese and Koreans, and the Resident-General annulled all of them, but Mr. Collbran alone made a protest to the Residency-General, through the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. The matter thus became a diplomatic question between Japan and America, and has been pending for the past three years. It has now been settled in Mr. Collbran's favour and one Japanese newspaper complains that the Resident-General has more than once sacrificed mining privileges in order to win the favour of Foreign Powers towards Korea.

Since the Japanese Shipbuilding Encouragement Law came into force in March 1896 the steamers built or in course of construction at dock-yards in Japan under the subsidy granted in pursuance with law number 88, with an aggregate tonnage of 20,940. Of these 76 steamers, of 167,746 tons, have already been completed at the following dockyards:—

	Steamers.	Tonnage.
Mitsui Bishi Dockyard	30	106,068
Kawasaki Dockyard	22	36,426
Osaka Iron Works	22	22,739
Ishikawajima Dockyard	2	2,516
Total	76	167,747

As three of these steamers the "Tsukishima," "Hitachi," and "Shiga Maru" were subsequently lost, the subsidised steamers at present number 73, with a total tonnage of 159,273. The steamers recently launched and in course of equipment are as follows:—

	Steamers.	Tonnage.
Mitsui Bishi Dockyard	3	21,000
Kawasaki Dockyard	1	8,800
Osaka Iron Works	3	4,160
Total	7	36,760

The steamers in course of construction under the encouragement certificate number 11, with a total tonnage of 78,240. These steamers are to be launched between August 1908 and April 1911.

MERCANTILE INFORMATION AGENCIES.

(Daily Press, 4th July.)

In one way or another many of our readers must be interested in those firms or agencies which offer to collect and present information about mercantile firms with whom their clients may have some prospect of doing business. There was recently made a decision by the Judicial Committee in an appeal emanating from Australia, *in re "Macintosh v. Dunn,"* which materially threatens the status of such agencies. Properly conducted, these mercantile information agencies are of the utmost service and value to traders so that the disagreement of the Judicial Committee with the High Court of Australia will be watched with some anxiety as to its sequelæ. The Commonwealth judges recognise their usefulness; the Judicial Committee points out their dangerous possibilities as chartered libellers. In the particular case, the plaintiff was a Sydney firm of hardware merchants, about whom the defendants, a commercial information bureau, gave information to another Sydney firm, the reports being very unfavourable to the plaintiff's business character and standing. They were, in fact, such as were bound to prevent dealings with them by any firm to whom they were sent. Suit for libel was begun, and before Mr. JUSTICE COHEN the plea of privilege was submitted. Previously the New South Wales Supreme Court had denied the privilege, uttering the opinion that "the law will not allow a joint stock co-operative slander association (limited)." A jury therefore gave damages, to the amount of £500. The Supreme Court of the Commonwealth reversed this, all the Judges declaring such reports to be privileged. "I have no difficulty, indeed," said the CHIEF JUSTICE, "in coming to the conclusion that the occasion was privileged." One Judge laid stress on the fact that only subscribers could obtain information. Another was impressed by the fact that the agency had a "duty" to the person who employed it. A man of business might make such inquiries by himself or his servant; "if instead of sending one of his own servants to make the inquiry the merchant or trader chooses to employ a person or company carrying on the business of making these inquiries, it would equally be the legal duty of that person or company to communicate to the employer all information which he himself believed to be true, fully and freely, so far as his knowledge goes." Accordingly the verdict was set aside. But now the uncertainty of the law as defined by Judges has become once more apparent. Transferred to England, the Judicial Committee has repudiated the reasoning above quoted. On the same admitted facts, and from the same cited authorities, they enunciated contrary conclusions. Here is a summary of their view of such agencies:—

The reasoning, in the judgment of Lord Macnaghten—upon whose words, in another case, by the way, some of the Judges in the Court of the Commonwealth placed reliance—is simple. The defendants volunteered information; and they did so not from any sense of duty, but in the prosecution of a business carried on for profit. They are not in the position of one who is asked to give information as to some one in his employment or of a bank confidentially consulted. "Is it for the welfare of society that they should conduct a business capable of being abused under special protection?" Lord Macnaghten's answer to this question is clear; the defendants sell libellous information without any distinct advantage to society being the result, and they must take the consequences if

they make mistakes in their perilous trade. He quoted with approval the saying by Vice-Chancellor Knight-Bruce, who, with the grim humour of that master of irony, remarked that "truth, like all other good things, may be loved unwisely—may be pursued too keenly—may cost too much", as much as a jury in its wisdom or folly may think fit to give. That is the moral and lesson which Lord Macnaghten extracts from the whole case.

It almost amounts to this, that if such an agency advertises its business, offers to obtain the much-desired information, it is in peril of punishment; but if it does not advertise, and waits quietly till a possible client finds out its existence and applies to it for information, then it may give such under the protection of privilege. Which is absurd. For before a Hongkong firm could find out what it wanted to know about a new customer in (say) Sydney, it would have to make patient enquiries for one of these agencies that are not permitted to announce their business. These agencies are now common enough, and so far as the absence of indications otherwise goes, they must in the main be honest. They help both parties, where their representations lead to the giving of credit or opening accounts between firms previously unknown to each other. In America, the Courts consider information given by such agencies as privileged, and the consensus of opinion among business men everywhere is probably that such communications should be privileged. As one of the Australian Judges remarked, "Merchants have an interest in knowing, and have a right to know, the character of their dealers and those who propose to deal with them, and of those upon whose standing and responsibility they in the course of their business have occasion to rely."

CHINESE IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, July 6th.)

Referring to its representative's interview with Sir ROBERT HART, which we reproduced in our last issue, the *Daily Mail* of June 6th makes a curious reference to the Chinese of Hongkong. "There has never been any doubt", it is good enough to say, "that the Chinese are one of the most industrious, sober, and intelligent races in the world. The fact that it has been found necessary to exclude them from the Pacific States of America and from the territories of the Australian Commonwealth testifies to their formidable character as industrial competitors. Where they have been granted free access, as in the Straits Settlements and Hongkong, they have rapidly monopolised most of the trade and commerce and have virtually edged out the white man. Sir Robert Hart may well bid us reflect on what such a people of 400 millions may achieve if once it be organised in the European fashion. The organisation, he thinks, will take time, but it is important for us to note that it is already making steady progress."

In a journal which can boast of a daily circulation five times as large as that of any penny London morning journal, it is rather a pity to find any such idea being started as that the Chinese of Hongkong have been or are "edging out" the white man. So far from monopolising the white man's trade, they have largely helped to make it for him and in spite of what the Chief Justice recently had to say about that sixty year old institution, the Compradore, almost every Chinaman in Hongkong has his use and his value, from the richest property owner to the poorest labourer. In the old days of the Colony, the white pioneers were in no doubt as to the necessity of a resident Chinese population, and inducements and invitations were offered to secure such. Broadly speaking, the Government ever

since has been consistently alive to the desirability of persuading its Chinese guests, now veritable members of the family to abide. Sometimes it has been complained that the Hongkong Government has given undue consideration to its Chinese constituents, but that may perhaps be ranked with the numerous other growls common to the white man on this rock. Having no vote worth mentioning, he takes it out in grumbling. No one is, in the outcome, a penny the worse, and the Government gets through its work on the whole with considerable success. The passing of a recent amending Ordinance is an example of how legislation follows grumbling. Like the mills of the gods, the wheels of the government move slowly, but they do revolve. With all his grumbling however, the Hongkong white man has never dreamed of saying what our London contemporary has said for him, that the Chinaman is a poacher on his preserves. Probably in no place in the world—and certainly nowhere on the China coast—are the Chinese and the whites more friendly, more mutually appreciative, than at Hongkong. They are as business men at once complementary and complimentary to each other. In a great measure this neighbourly feeling extends over adjacent Chinese who are not British subjects, and the Cantonese practical sympathy with Hongkong's trouble in 1906, the year of the typhoon, has just been reciprocated by a sincere effort to do all we can for those in the Liang Kwang whom a still greater catastrophe has befallen. The *Daily Mail* may accept our assurance that the feelings at all times existing in this Colony are very, very different from, and never to be compared with, those understood to prevail in (say) San Francisco. There are, however, other indications in our contemporary's remarks that suggest that someone not altogether responsible, perhaps the office boy, had been wielding on this occasion the editorial pen. It is, for example, not exactly convincing reasoning which draws the following moral from the simple fact that Sir ROBERT HART chose to travel home under the German flag.

In all directions he sees the signs of immense changes, perhaps one of the greatest being the fact that he comes home in a German ship. The unchallenged ascendancy on the seas which England possessed when he first went to the Far East in 1854 no longer exists. The statistically minded will remember that the parliamentary return of last year indicated the change when it showed that Germany owned 254 steamers of 4,000 tons and over, displacing 1,535,000 tons in 1905, to the British 247 of 1,322,000 tons. In the largest class of ocean-going vessel the British mercantile marine to-day has to take second place.

The Inspector-General could have travelled home by P. & O. if he had wanted to. There are still a few ships of that line on the run.

PHILIPPINES AND FREE TRADE.

(Daily Press, July 7th.)

One of the features of the Fourth of July celebrations in the Philippines was a great demonstration with the object of endorsing in mass meeting a petition in favour of Free Trade between the Philippine Islands and the United States. Meetings were arranged to take place not only in Manila but in many other of the principal cities of the Archipelago. The demonstration was planned by the Merchants' Association, and the petition asks Congress to give to the Philippines laws similar to those which have been enacted in the case of Porto Rico. Since that island was given the advantage of free trade with the United States

"splendid development" has been witnessed, and the petitioners say they believe they can pledge to Congress for the Philippines an equal return in commerce, in proportion to population, if they are given the same legislative advantages. That is to say, "where the million Porto Ricans purchase twenty-five million dollars' worth of goods in the United States, eight million Filipinos will, within ten years from the enactment of a Free-Trade law, be purchasing two hundred million dollars worth." Equal trade advantages with Porto Rico will also, the petitioners claim, remove the economic troubles with which the islands are afflicted and bring them once more to "a condition of prosperity and happiness." Looking at the official report on the Commerce of the Islands for 1907 one might derive the impression that the Philippines were now in a fair way to attain that happy state even under present legislative conditions. An increase of nearly three millions dollars was shown in the value of the imports, compared with the returns of the previous year, while the export trade reached "the maximum in the history of the islands." But the petitioners state that "while sections of the Archipelago that yield hemp, copra and rice have continued during recent years under a fair measure of prosperity, the country has lacked the stimulus of capital, and the producers of many articles, notably sugar, have laboured under conditions that precluded success; and during the present year the low prices that have prevailed for hemp and copra, together with a partial failure of the rice crop, have prostrated industry and precipitated an acute economic crisis."

The demand which the people of the Philippines are now forcing upon the attention of Congress is not a new one. It has been voiced by the leading representatives of American commerce in the islands on many occasions, and the demand for the removal particularly of the American tariff on sugar and tobacco grown in the Philippines has had the powerful support of the Hon. Mr. W. H. TAFT. In the extremely probable event of Mr. TAFT succeeding President ROOSEVELT at the White House the desires of the people of the Philippines as expressed in this petition are likely to receive the most sympathetic consideration. It seems indeed that he has promised, if elected, to call an extra session of Congress in March to consider the proposal. But while there is this movement in the Philippines, it is interesting to other nations trading with the islands to note that manufacturers in the United States are declaring in favour of the closing of the Philippine Islands to trade with all countries other than the United States. The Convention of American Manufacturers in New York in May passed a resolution embodying this claim. We note, however, that it does not meet with approval in the Islands, and a vigorous protest made a year ago by Bishop BRENT is recalled in which he spoke of "corporate interests in the United States interfering with the Philippine market by trying to impose upon an unwilling population, at an advanced price, the products of American looms." It may be added that experience has already shown that under preferential tariff conditions the products of American looms have derived a considerable advantage in the islands, and probably the policy of "free trade between the Philippines and the United States" will go a considerable way towards ousting all competitors in the main lines of commerce. It seems, however, to be recognised in the Philippines that the success of the Free

Trade movement depends upon the election of Mr. TAFT, and it is declared that his defeat would mean that the Philippines would be set back indefinitely.

THE SANITARY BOARD.

(Daily Press, 8th July.)

Dr. ATKINSON, the Principal Civil Medical Officer, as he reads the eulogies on his services to the community pronounced by Mr. SHELTON HOOPER and Mr. LAU CHU PAK at the meeting of the Sanitary Board yesterday will probably have a few perplexing moments if he allows his mind to wander back to the publication of the Report of the Sanitary Commission, and he might not inappropriately murmur:

Perhaps it was right to dissemble your love. But—why did you kick me downstairs?

The removal of Dr. Atkinson from the Sanitary Board of which he has for some years past been the President is one direct result of the Report of the Sanitary Commission, and it is pleasing to note that on the inauguration of the changes in the constitution of the Board effected by the law which is the outcome of that Commission, one of its most active and hard working members should avail himself of the opportunity to emphasise the fact that the recommendation to relieve the Principal Civil Medical Officer of the Presidency of the Sanitary Board implied no lack of appreciation of Dr. ATKINSON's zeal and ability. The recommendation was made because the Commissioners considered that it was humanly impossible for an official charged with such multifarious duties as devolve upon the Principal Civil Medical Officer of Health in this Colony, to give all the attention that is obviously desirable to the work of an Administrative Head of "one of the largest and most important Departments in the Government of the Colony, with an annual expenditure of close upon \$500,000 and a staff of upwards of 60 members exclusive of a large number of clerks and of coolies, and day-to-day employees." Dr. ATKINSON was described in the Report as Medical Adviser to the Government and head of the Medical Department having the supervision of a large medical staff, the Government Civil Hospital, with branches of maternity hospital and infectious hospitals, the asylum, gaol, bacteriological Departments, and Victoria mortuary, and as is well known, he is not only liable but actually is called in to act as consulting surgeon to the above establishments. In addition to all this the Principal Civil Medical Officer is resident surgeon of the chief hospital in the Colony for women and children, containing 40 beds. This hospital, the Commissioners declared, is in itself sufficient occupation for one surgeon. In the face of this catalogue of occupations it is easy to recognise the truth of the statement that it is humanly impossible for any man holding them all to give the attention that is necessary to the administration of the Sanitary Department. No one, we imagine, has more reason to be pleased with the change the new law effects in the constitution of the Sanitary Board than the Principal Civil Medical Officer himself. His duties as Principal Civil Medical Officer are sufficiently onerous and exacting, and it may be accepted as eloquent testimony to his zeal and administrative capacity that he has been able for so long to add to these duties the heavy responsibilities of "almost despotic rule" in the Sanitary Department without any apparent sacrifice of that high state of efficiency

in the Medical Department which the community long since learnt to associate with his name.

The welcome accorded to Mr. McI. MESSER, the new Administrative Head of the Department, was no less grateful for it will not have been forgotten that when the Commission expressed in their Report the opinion that the President of the Sanitary Board should not be a medical man, they did not count on the Principal Civil Medical Officer being replaced by another *ex-officio* President. They desired that the Sanitary Board should have the right to elect its President annually, as in all municipal assemblies; but the Government vetoed the idea and decided to appoint to the position "a cadet officer with experience of the Chinese, in the Chinese language, and of proved administrative capacity." The choice has fallen on Mr. McI. MESSER and the compliments paid him yesterday by the unofficial members give assurance that if the business of the Sanitary Board is conducted in the spirit of the Governor's speeches in Council on the subject, Mr. MESSER may confidently count upon the unanimous support and co-operation of the Board.

THE SITUATION IN PERSIA.

(Daily Press, July 9th.)

The utter failure of a parliamentary régime in Persia, was perhaps in most quarters not entirely unexpected. There are, of course, two accompaniments absolutely necessary for the success of Parliamentary Rule; it needs the intelligent understanding of both Sovereign and People, and both these, it is hardly necessary to mention, were conspicuously absent in Persia. Russia may be quoted as another instance of a very similar failure, in both cases the cause of the breakdown proceeding from the same cause, the utter want of understanding of the workings of the parliamentary machine on the part of both rulers and ruled. In the days of JOHN STUART MILL, a politician of as little practical experience of men and measures, as the SHAH OF PERSIA himself, Parliamentary Government was to be the great panacea for all the political ills to which humanity is subject. "Have you J. S. MILL on 'Liberty'?" asked once in the presence of the writer an applicant at a lending library. The reply was characteristic, and marked the general trend of feeling at the period:—"No, Sir, but we have Parliamentary Government." The two were evidently interchangeable conceptions in the mind of the young lady who presided over the issue of books. This misunderstanding of the objects and limitations of parliament was conspicuous in the first Duma summoned by the Tsar. In the sovereign's mind, the doctrines of J. S. MILL kept continually jostling the Roman idea of autocracy, and prevented most effectually any definite scheme being drawn up. At last, in desperation, and shutting his eyes to the possible, or certain, results, the Tsar gave the word for the assembling of the first Duma. It promised to be the story of the "Constituent Assembly" over again. No rules had been evolved to direct proceedings, and no one knew what to do, or how to do it; while with the exception of general discontent, no two individuals' opinions coalesced on any point. A scene of wild confusion was the natural result; and the Tsar's responsible advisers found it necessary to council the dissolution of the House, even by violence, if necessary. The Duma sullenly yielded in the face of the military preparations made, and a second was elected with little better results, and

dissolved without having done any better than attempted to impeach the ministers. It was clearly evident that no parliament chosen in the promiscuous way in which these Dumas had been could be expected to succeed.

It is characteristic of the state of decay into which the Government of Russia has fallen that instead of making proper regulations for the election of the third Duma, which the advisers of the Tsar felt had become a necessity, the unconstitutional and irregular method of directly forcing the choice of representatives was had recourse to. The event seems, however, to have been fairly successful, and the House, by timid steps it is true, has proceeded to business, and its advice has been, nominally at least, accepted by the Government. This, however irregularly it may have been arrived at, is perhaps a subject for congratulation. The great thing needed was to have an influential council outside the regular ministers, who are at best compelled to be mere creatures of the Tsar. The election of a parliament is perhaps the least important part of its constitution. Granted that it is independent, any two or three hundred men selected at random, the more at random the better, can be worked, or can work themselves into an efficient council. At all events while not openly contradicting the government, the Duma has been sufficiently independent to make its influence felt, and having accepted its help in matters of finance it would seem to be difficult for the Government to dispense with it in future.

When we come to look back to Persia, there seems no glimmer of hope whatever; from the very beginning the SHAH has been plotting secretly against his newly called Parliament, and the principal members of the Parliament have in an equally underhand manner been plotting against the SHAH. Worst of all in this contest of plot and counterplot neither SHAH nor Parliament has taken the slightest thought of the country; the contest is not even one of party, much less of policy, but an ignominious squabble for the power, and above all the emoluments of office. Neither SHAH, Parliament, Army, nor People have in fact any higher aim than personal pelf. All this, we can readily see has a not unimportant effect on Chinese politics. Seeing the disastrous effects of an attempt to introduce parliamentary rule by its neighbours the Government itself, which was the first to contemplate its establishment in China, is without doubt beginning to doubt its utility. Its commissioners sent abroad to study European and American constitutions have been by no means unanimous in recommending their introduction into China; yet of all countries in the world China was at least one of the very first to appreciate the duty owing by the State to the individuals of whom it is composed. This has always been the theory, and at China's brightest moments has been the practice of the Empire, and in this respect China stands an immeasurable distance ahead of her Asiatic competitors. Be not content, the Shu King advises the prince, at studying your reflection in the mirror; look rather at the countenance of your subjects, for there you will see the reflection of your own actions. It is true that the Government of China has at all times paid little attention to these lofty precepts, and that at the present time it stands prominent for corruption. Amidst all it is however noteworthy that the people themselves have always preserved the precepts in their minds, and from time to time have shown their ability to act on them; it may well

be not always wisely. We have witnessed not a few of these misdirected efforts of late years, where the feelings of self-restraint inculcated in these moral precepts of the old sages have by evil minded and designing men been turned to the worst purposes. We may instance the Boxer trouble of eight years ago, undoubtedly proceeding from a misapplication of moral principles deeply imbedded in the mind of the nation, and which in the hands of evil designing men were turned to the worst purposes. We have seen a spirit of the same nature lately fanned into mischief and wrong in the City of Canton, and we see designing men turning to wicked and senseless ends the national longing of the Chinese as a nation to recover their former independence in the face of the world. China has in fact, while preserving in her moral code, these exalted precepts, by long continued apathy, and political slothfulness suffered them to fall into disuse, so that they have in a manner become atrophied, and this is the great danger under which she lies. She would do well, but she has lost the power of converting her good intentions into action. Whether the first results of obtaining Parliamentary Government would result in strengthening politically and commercially her position as a nation, or would result in her utter downfall, like Persia, is one of those questions that can only be decided by actual experience. Under wise counsels, and tempered by discretion and experience, there can be little doubt of China's capacity; but the important question arises, can she depend on obtaining those wise counsellors, and the necessary discretion to carry her safely through the preliminary period of temptation?

THE TYPHOON REFUGE QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 10th July.)

A week ago the Hon. J. MURRAY STEWART, who represents the Chamber of Commerce in the Legislative Council of the Colony, incidentally emphasised in a speech that "Hongkong is a wharf" and that its other functions—as a warehouse, a mart and distributing centre—are secondary. That this is a correct view of the Colony's position few will be prepared to dispute. It is strongly emphasised in the answer returned by the Shipping Firms to the Memorandum prepared by H. E. the Governor in justification of the Government's proposal to temporarily raise the light dues in order to provide the necessary revenue for the construction of an extremely costly Typhoon Harbour of Refuge. While it is perfectly true, as His Excellency states, that there is no point which has been more strongly emphasised by the representatives of the Community in the Council than that the construction of the refuge should be pushed on with the utmost rapidity, yet it can certainly be said that they have never contemplated a scheme half as costly as the one just announced. The scheme the Engineer recommends for a boatshelter at Mongkoktsui will cost over a million and a half of dollars, and after reconsidering the matter with a view to bringing the cost of the works within more moderate limits he has worked out a scheme costing \$883,000. He points out, however, that this reduced scheme has many obvious objections, and he declares emphatically that "nothing but a complete breakwater would be of any use." The Shipping Firms however, declare that there are various objections to the site; that there is no apparent necessity for so

large a scheme; and that it is no more accessible than the present refuge. But does the Government propose to do away with the Causeway Bay shelter? We have never understood the demand as being for a single shelter at one end of the harbour, but, rather, for one at each end. There is force in the argument as to the inaccessibility of the proposed refuge if it is intended that the boats working in the Eastern end of the harbour will have to run for shelter to Mongkoktsui instead of to Causeway Bay. It would be a serious mistake to contemplate the closing of the present shelter. The reasons the Shipping Firms have urged against the new scheme are, as they point out, all in favour of first improving the Causeway Bay site, and it is satisfactory to observe that since the Shipping Firms called attention to the present disgraceful condition of the place the Government has paid some attention to the complaint and called for tenders for dredging the shelter. When we come to calmly reflect on the great typhoon of 1906 we fear the statement must be a limited one that "for a typhoon, unsignalled, as in 1906, no refuge of any size or description or situation would be of any avail" and if it be admitted also that "lighters and large junks can ride at anchor as they have always done, and small craft can be well accommodated at Causeway Bay in ordinary typhoons," we practically deny that any necessity exists for another or even a larger shelter. It is late in the day to give expression to such views as these, but coming as they do from the representatives of the British shipping firms in the Colony, the Government must give them their due weight.

The Shipping interests would naturally be expected to protest against being burdened with the cost of a new shelter in the manner proposed by the Government. It is not, however, a purely selfish protest. The ground on which they make their protest demands the most serious consideration of the Government and the Community generally, for the proposals of the Government strike fatally at the policy to which Hongkong has owed its development. "The satisfactory development of our prosperity" declared Sir John Bowring when he was Governor of the Colony, "is mainly due to the emancipation of all shipping and trade from fiscal vexations and exactions." Well may the Government be warned to tread cautiously in the direction of increasing the burdens on Shipping. Of course, it is not the Shipping Companies who would in the end bear the burden. As they point out, they can always "even up" on rates, so that ultimately all additional taxation is met by consumers.

The difference of even half a cent per gross might mean that transshipment of thousands of tons of cargo would be diverted from Hongkong and delivered direct to Manila, Shanghai, Canton and elsewhere. The Shipping Companies can view such a transfer of trade with equanimity, because they can deliver and collect cargo in Manila or Shanghai or elsewhere with equal facility, but the Hongkong Government would realise, when perhaps it was too late, that they had driven trade into the hands of a competing port, willing and anxious to secure the trade.

Hongkong will have no reason to fear its rivals so long as the traditional policy of the Government is maintained, but we cannot fail to recognise that Hongkong stands in greater peril to-day from any increase in the taxation of shipping than at any previous time in the history of the Colony. The Port of Manila, by its freedom from tonnage and light dues and its improved harbour accommodation, has already developed a

the expense of Hongkong trade, and unless the Government heeds the emphatic advice of the leading representatives of the shipping interest in the Colony, we may rely on hearing more of the development of Manila and other neighbouring ports, and of the consequent loss of trade to Hongkong.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 3rd July.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT).

A JURY ACTION.

The action Leung Lai Wan and others v. Reuter, Brockelmann & Co., was resumed. The plaintiffs claimed damages from defendants for having illegally procured the Chinese authorities to issue a warrant for the arrest of plaintiffs and wrongful seizure of premises. Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. C. F. Dixon of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, appeared for the plaintiffs, defendants being represented by the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. E. P. Lang of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon. The special jury was composed of Messrs. B. Shewan (foreman), Richard Martin, T. F. Hough, J. A. Jupp, A. W. A. Becker, A. S. D. Cousland, and G. W. C. Pemberton.

Mr. Dixon, of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, gave evidence as to plaintiffs' partnership book.

Mr. Pollock said that if the evidence were admitted it would give him the right to cross-examine the witness on his instructions. It opened up the question of privilege.

His Lordship—It is not altogether a question of privilege.

Mr. Pollock—Will your Lordship allow me to argue the point? Your Lordship can be against me or not.

His Lordship—I may be against you or be for you. I very much object to that suggestion.

Mr. Pollock—I can only speak from experience.

His Lordship—Your experience is absolutely wrong, and I shall address the jury on that point.

Mr. Pollock—I don't see what it has to do with the jury.

His Lordship—These remarks are merely ingg-ations thrown out to the jury—very improper suggestions with regard to a judge in the presence of the jury.

Mr. Pollock—I don't wish to further argue, but I must have an opinion on this matter. Mr. Pollock then continued his argument, and said the admission of the evidence raised the question of privilege and he would have to cross-examine on the instructions received.

His Lordship—You can go into all the instructions. I think the objection is a proper one.

Mr. Slade waived his objection.

The incident then ended.

Sir Henry Berkeley opened the case for the defendants. He submitted that the action ought to be dismissed. His chief argument was that the tort was committed outside the territorial jurisdiction.

The hearing was adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

A CAPTAIN'S DISMISSAL.

His Honour delivered judgment in the action in which Captain Bergwitz sued the Shui On Steamship Company for \$835 for wrongful dismissal. He said that the defendants endeavoured to justify the dismissal on three counts, namely (a) habitual drunkenness, (b) incompetency in his duties as captain, (c) alleged assault of the pilot and alleged assault of other members of the crew. The evidence before him did not prove the first count, and on the second there was no evidence to show that he was incompetent. The ship was a new one and the collision which occurred on leaving the

wharf was not sufficient to prove that defendant was incapable of performing his duties. As to the assaults, he expressed the conviction that such conduct was detrimental to the interests of the Chinese employees. He thought the captain in accepting such a position should have acquainted himself with the terms of the agreement. His Honour found that the third plea held good and gave judgment for the defendants with costs.

SUED FOR 80 CENTS.

E. A. L. da Silva was summoned by J. Bryanjee for 80 cents. When the case was called, the plaintiff said the money had been paid to him out of court and the case was dismissed.

Monday, 6th July.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

A JURY ACTION.

The action Leung Lai Wan and others v. Reuter, Brockelmann & Co., was resumed. The plaintiffs claimed damages from defendants for having illegally procured the Chinese authorities to issue a warrant for the arrest of plaintiffs and wrongful seizure of premises. Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. C. F. Dixon of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, appeared for the plaintiffs, defendants being represented by the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. E. P. Lang of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon. The special jury was composed of Messrs. B. Shewan (foreman), Richard Martin, T. F. Hough, J. A. Jupp, A. W. A. Becker, A. S. D. Cousland, and G. W. C. Pemberton.

Sir Henry Berkeley said it was his pleasant task to state to the jurors the defence of Messrs. Reuter, Brockelmann and Co. to a charge made against them by Chinese subjects in Canton on account of their having exercised, as they were fully entitled to, the privileges accorded to German subjects, whosoever they might be, by the Emperor of China, under treaty with the Emperor of Germany, to seek the assistance of their consul in China to obtain through the Chinese authorities the payment of just debts. That was the offence, with a capital O, with which this respectable German firm was charged. The complaint was that the defendants without justification pursued persons in China who had nothing to do with the Chung Loong firm, in order to squeeze from them monies due to the defendants by the said firm. His Imperial German Majesty's Consul in China was accused of illegally procuring the Chinese Authorities to act in an arbitrary, high-handed and unjustifiable way against this Chinese firm. The allegation was that they told the Consul that Li Lai-san and two other men had absconded from Hongkong and were hiding in China, meaning thereby that they were fraudulently endeavouring to avoid payment of their just debts. Counsel put it to the jury strongly that even if they could have gone against the plaintiffs in Hongkong they were entitled to go against them in Canton; they were entitled to sue them in the country in which they lived rather than waste time by following up a useless bankrupt firm in Hongkong. No verdict could be given for libel unless the words laid in the statement of claim had been proved.

His Lordship—I must remind you, Sir Henry, that the onus is on you.

Sir Henry Berkeley—The onus is on us for what, my Lord?

His Lordship—There are three allegations; the first is that they are partners; the second is that they absconded; and the third is that they are in hiding.

Mr. Slade—There are four.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I would like to hear the fourth.

His Lordship—I am not going to deal with it. The point is this: I am not going further than the first allegation, that of partnership. You justify the truth, and therefore the onus is on you. I shall have to put it to the jury like that.

Sir Henry Berkeley—That is so, and I agree with it. So far the onus is on us. Counsel then asked the jurors to consider the facts, and advised them not to mix them. It was a bad plan to mix anything, he said, and informed the jurors that if they did not mix their facts they

would be sober in the head when they came to give judgment. The capital of the sugar firm, Sir Henry told the jurors, was \$14,000.

Mr. Slade—I hope my friend won't get mixed in the facts. The capital of the sugar firm was \$11,000. Accuracy is of some importance.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Accuracy is all-important. Counsel then addressed the jurors with reference to a witness who went into the Chung Loong shop and was "testing sugar."

His Lordship—Tasting it.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Tasting by testing, and testing by tasting.

After tiffin Sir Henry Berkeley continued his address for the defence. He stated that when execution was issued the plaintiffs returned from the country, and then they terrorised defendants by a boycott.

Mr. Slade—Who said that?

Sir Henry Berkeley—You did.

Mr. Slade—I did not.

His Lordship—The question was raised in cross-examination, and then I thought it was understood to be correct.

Sir Henry Berkeley (to Mr. Slade)—You must not make mistakes here.

Mr. Slade—I absolutely deny that. What I said was, there was an allegation that you were threatened with a boycott. To assert positively what I have already twice denied, I don't think proper. If you are going to prove it you must state it.

Sir Henry Berkeley—It has been asserted, I contend, in the opening.

Mr. Slade—My friend is asserting again and again about the boycott. I ask him if he is going to prove it, or he will not.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I don't want to prove what you admit.

Mr. Slade—I don't admit it. It has been persistently denied.

His Lordship—The witness denied it.

Sir Henry Berkeley—The witness did not deny it.

Mr. Slade—He did.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Well, we'll pass. I don't want to make the issue any wider than it need be. You shouldn't state what you don't want me to say.

Mr. Slade—To assert to the jury what I have not stated, and then to go on stating it as a fact is, I venture to submit, exceedingly improper.

Sir Henry Berkeley—The conduct of the plaintiffs was such as to lead Reuter, Brockelmann and Co. and the German Consul to believe they were partners, and they did believe themselves liable for the money due to the Ching Loong. Is that an unfair inference to draw?

Mr. Slade—Yes.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I think not, because the excuse of business in the country was a blind.

His Lordship—Supposing the Kwong Hing Loong is composed of twelve persons, and the jury believes that these men are partners, how will you escape judgment against you, even if you allege A B and C are the partners?

Sir Henry Berkeley—No such judgment could be given.

His Lordship—I am indicating possibilities you should meet.

Sir Henry Berkeley—If the three men referred to should be found by the jury to be partners in the Ching Loong, and if they are partners in the Kwong Hing Cheong, and we have seized the Kwong Hing Cheong's premises, although they allege that the nine others are not partners in the Ching Loong, and they prove it, they would not be entitled to judgment even then, because they were a foreign firm and were bound to put all the names of the twelve in the writ.

His Lordship—If you have a writ against A, B and C, whether in Canton or Kamschatka, you cannot exercise it against A to L.

Sir Henry Berkeley—If twelve persons sue on one undivided right, and you can prove that three of them are not entitled to recover against you, the whole of the twelve are barred by that particular writ to recover.

His Lordship—I think you had better seriously consider the point till to-morrow, as the whole action depends upon it.

Sir Henry Berkeley then referred to "Ching Loong" named. He said they were "Ching Loong" named.

July 11, 1908.]

CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

23

Harriss" and asked the jury to say, as Mrs. Betsy Frig said, "I don't believe there ever was no such persons."

The hearing was again adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ
(ACTING PUISINE JUDGE).

CLAIM FOR MONEY PAID.

Action was brought by Fang Chen-ting against Kwan Fung to recover \$265.50 money paid by plaintiff to defendant at the latter's request. Mr. Otto Kong Sing represented the plaintiffs, and Mr. Davidson, of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, the defendant.

Mr. Kong Sing informed the Court that plaintiff and defendant were partners together with two others, in a firm called the Hop Sing. In November, 1907, the other two partners of the firm sued the plaintiff and defendant in this action for the taking of partnership accounts. A receiver was appointed, accounts were taken, and it was ultimately agreed that plaintiff and defendant were jointly indebted to the other two partners in the sum of \$442.80. Besides that the plaintiff claimed that he paid out a sum of \$83.36 to creditors of the firm after the accounts were taken. He now claimed half of both the amounts mentioned.

After evidence was taken an order by consent was made for accounts, which are to be taken by the shroff.

Tuesday, 7th July.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR
FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

A JURY ACTION.

The action Leung Lai Wan and others v. Reuter, Brockelmann & Co., was resumed. The plaintiffs claimed damages from defendants for having illegally procured the Chinese authorities to issue a warrant for the arrest of plaintiffs and wrongful seizure of premises. Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. C. F. Dixon of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, appeared for the plaintiffs, defendants being represented by the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. E. P. Lang of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon. The special jury was composed of Messrs. R. Shewan (foreman), Richard, Martin, T. F. Hough, J. A. Jupp, A. W. A. Becker, A. S. D. Cousland, and G. W. C. Pemberton.

Mr. Pollock opened the proceedings by drawing his Lordship's particular attention to the provisions of section 26 of the Evidence Ordinance No. 2 of 1889 with regard to the books of account. That section related to entries in books of account kept in the course of business, and he submitted that that could only refer to entries as to mere matters of account. In other words, sub-section 1 of section 26 could not possibly refer to an entry of a partnership agreement in a book. This provision was a rather special legal one in our Ordinance, and rather extended the provision as to banking accounts which his Lordship knew was in force in this Colony. He ventured to submit that entries referred to meant entries as to matters of account.

His Lordship—I am disposed to agree with you.

Mr. Pollock—I think your Lordship will see the important distinction?

His Lordship—Yes.

Mr. Pollock—Therefore any entries contained in that book under "tong" names would not fall under this provision.

Mr. Slade—With regard to the actual agreement, I produced the writer thereof, and he proved he wrote the whole of it himself, and all the "tong" names. It obtains no greater validity by reason of being written in a book of account, but with regard to the rest of the book which is strictly a book of account referring to payments year by year and interest of various partners taken from the cash books, some 70 of which were produced, that falls strictly within the provision.

Mr. Pollock—The link is missing. The man called to support the partnership agreement says he wrote it out himself, therefore anything

in that partnership agreement with reference to "tong" names does not carry any weight, or have any sanction in this provision of the Ordinance. Your Lordship, I understand, puts the next point in this way: assuming the jury to be in the defendants' favour as to these three men, Li Lai-san and the other two, being partners in the Chung Loong and Kwong Hing Cheong firms, would it not be possible to bring an action for damages against the other nine partners, or some of them?

His Lordship—That is one way of putting it. What I mean is this: Assuming this to be the law; these three men being partners in the Chung Loong; their property could have been seized by the process which has been adopted by the German Consul and the Chinese Authorities. Yet that would not justify the seizure of the other nine partners.

Mr. Pollock—I shall impress upon the jury that there is no satisfactory evidence before them about the others being partners. Proceeding, Counsel again referred his Lordship to the pleadings. It was alleged in paragraph 6 of the statement of claim that they made false representations, not with regard to the partners in the Kwong Hing Loong as a whole, but they made allegations to the effect that certain three plaintiffs were partners in the Chung Loong firms. With regard to the question of absconding and hiding, Sir Henry Berkeley had dealt with that point fully, and showed that the letter of the German Consul complained of did not bear the interpretation put upon it. If the jury came to the conclusion that the three persons said to be partners in the Chung Loong firm were partners, then that was an answer to the allegation with regard to libel. His Lordship would see, following on other consecutive paragraphs of the pleadings, that all the acts which subsequently occurred were stated as having been the consequence of the letter of February 21st, 1907, written by the German Consul.

His Lordship—The allegations in paragraph 6 are that three men are partners in the Chung Loong; that they absconded, and that they were in hiding. It further stated that the Chung Loong were indebted in the sum of \$53,000 and that the plaintiffs and their said firm, the Kwong Hing Cheong, were liable to pay the said sum of \$53,000.

Mr. Pollock—The allegation is that these men were partners in the Chung Loong firm; it does not extend to implicate anybody else at all. The seizure complained of was the seizure by the Lun Yu Magistrate, the magistrate who has jurisdiction in Honam. We would submit that that seizure was a judicial act, the act of process issuing from the Yamen magistrate having jurisdiction.

His Lordship—It is a well-known cause of action, wrongfully and maliciously setting a foreign law in motion, and I do not attribute any great difference in proceedings in French courts in Saigon to the proceedings of Chinese courts in Canton. It has been laid down in two cases that an action will lie for wrongfully and maliciously, and without reasonable and probable cause, getting a foreign process in motion.

Mr. Pollock—Obviously the onus of proof in a malicious prosecution rests upon the plaintiff. He has to show that it was unreasonable to take any proceedings at all.

Further evidence was called, and the case adjourned.

Wednesday, July 8th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

CHIEF JUSTICE'S ALLEGED MISDIRECTION.

An action was opened before their Honours the Chief Justice and Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, Acting Puisine Judge in which the Russo-Chinese Bank appealed against the decision of the Chief Justice in the case of Li Yau-sam v. the said bank. Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the appellants, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) represented the respondent.

Mr. Pollock read the notice of motion asking (1) that judgment may be entered for the defendants on the ground that a jury would not

be warranted upon the evidence, if properly directed as to the issues and as to the law, in finding a verdict for the plaintiff. (2) Or in default of the above order being made, that the verdict which was obtained on the trial of this action in favour of the respondent (the plaintiff) may be set aside, and that a new trial may be had between the parties on the following grounds:—

(a) That his Honour the Chief Justice misdirected the jury on the following points, namely (1) as to the principle of law which was laid down in the case of Farquharson v. King. (2) As to the principle of the case cited by the Counsel for the defendants, namely, The British Mutual Banking Co. v. Charnwood Forest Railway Co., 18 Q.B.D., 714 only applying to actions brought against members for the false representations of their agents. (3) As to the principle laid down by Mr. Justice Willes in Barwick v. the English Joint Stock Bank, L.R. 2 Ex., in that he omitted to point out to the jury that Mr. Justice Willes said at page 265: "The general rule is that the master is answerable for every such wrong of a servant or agent as is committed in the course of his service, and for the master's benefit."

(4) As to the case of a receiving clerk in a bank receiving money on behalf of depositors being analogous to the present case. (5) When he directed the jury as follows: "And now, gentlemen, this I conceive to be the law: that, if in the course of business for a long period the business has been conducted in a certain way, and if a given transaction which comes before you has been conducted in this way, then, if that business has been conducted fraudulently, the plaintiff is entitled to a verdict."

(6) That the Chief Justice misdirected the jury as to the evidence of the plaintiff's witness Lau Chung-yen with regard to the slip, exhibit 3. (7) That the Chief Justice misdirected the jury when he directed them as follows: "The question which I wish to put to you is whether you consider that in accordance with the course of dealing and whether he was in fact defrauded in that way, whether he was defrauded in the way an ordinary man would be defrauded. The way I have drafted out is this: if you think that the plaintiff went outside the ordinary course of dealing and pressed the compradore to such, then you must find for the defendants, but if you think that he did what he had always done; that the compradore pretended to do what he had always done in such a way as not to excite the plaintiff's suspicions; that there was in the course of the dealing no knowledge conveyed to him that other things were necessary which the compradore did not do but pretended to do, as for example the simple one of seeking the manager, then you must find for the plaintiff."

(8) In directing the jury that the bank's liability was affected by a consideration of the question as to whether the bank had, or had not taken adequate precautions to protect the customer against a fraud by the compradore. (9) In putting the following question to the jury: "Did the bank put the compradore in such a position that he could pretend to the plaintiff that he had the necessary authority to receive money, and, if so, did the plaintiff, believing that he had that authority, not offer the money to the compradore in that belief?"

(b) That His Honour the Chief Justice was wrong in refusing to leave to the jury the following questions which were submitted by defendants' counsel, namely: (1) Was the defendants' compradore authorized by the defendants to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (2) Did the defendants' compradore in fact get the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager before entering or purporting to enter into the exchange transactions in question with the plaintiff's agent, Lau Chung-yen? (3) Did the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen believe that the defendants' compradore had power to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (4) Was the defendants' compradore, in entering or purporting to enter the exchange transactions in question, acting for the benefit of the defendants or for his (the compradore's) own benefit. (5) Did the defendants' compradore receive the sum of \$40,961.30 from the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen?

(6) That the Chief Justice was wrong in refusing to leave to the jury the following questions which were submitted by defendants' counsel, namely: (1) Was the defendants' compradore authorized by the defendants to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (2) Did the defendants' compradore in fact get the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager before entering or purporting to enter into the exchange transactions in question with the plaintiff's agent, Lau Chung-yen? (3) Did the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen believe that the defendants' compradore had power to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (4) Was the defendants' compradore, in entering or purporting to enter the exchange transactions in question, acting for the benefit of the defendants or for his (the compradore's) own benefit. (5) Did the defendants' compradore receive the sum of \$40,961.30 from the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen?

(6) That the Chief Justice was wrong in refusing to leave to the jury the following questions which were submitted by defendants' counsel, namely: (1) Was the defendants' compradore authorized by the defendants to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (2) Did the defendants' compradore in fact get the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager before entering or purporting to enter into the exchange transactions in question with the plaintiff's agent, Lau Chung-yen? (3) Did the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen believe that the defendants' compradore had power to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (4) Was the defendants' compradore, in entering or purporting to enter the exchange transactions in question, acting for the benefit of the defendants or for his (the compradore's) own benefit. (5) Did the defendants' compradore receive the sum of \$40,961.30 from the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen?

(6) That the Chief Justice was wrong in refusing to leave to the jury the following questions which were submitted by defendants' counsel, namely: (1) Was the defendants' compradore authorized by the defendants to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (2) Did the defendants' compradore in fact get the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager before entering or purporting to enter into the exchange transactions in question with the plaintiff's agent, Lau Chung-yen? (3) Did the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen believe that the defendants' compradore had power to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (4) Was the defendants' compradore, in entering or purporting to enter the exchange transactions in question, acting for the benefit of the defendants or for his (the compradore's) own benefit. (5) Did the defendants' compradore receive the sum of \$40,961.30 from the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen?

(6) That the Chief Justice was wrong in refusing to leave to the jury the following questions which were submitted by defendants' counsel, namely: (1) Was the defendants' compradore authorized by the defendants to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (2) Did the defendants' compradore in fact get the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager before entering or purporting to enter into the exchange transactions in question with the plaintiff's agent, Lau Chung-yen? (3) Did the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen believe that the defendants' compradore had power to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (4) Was the defendants' compradore, in entering or purporting to enter the exchange transactions in question, acting for the benefit of the defendants or for his (the compradore's) own benefit. (5) Did the defendants' compradore receive the sum of \$40,961.30 from the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen?

(6) That the Chief Justice was wrong in refusing to leave to the jury the following questions which were submitted by defendants' counsel, namely: (1) Was the defendants' compradore authorized by the defendants to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (2) Did the defendants' compradore in fact get the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager before entering or purporting to enter into the exchange transactions in question with the plaintiff's agent, Lau Chung-yen? (3) Did the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen believe that the defendants' compradore had power to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (4) Was the defendants' compradore, in entering or purporting to enter the exchange transactions in question, acting for the benefit of the defendants or for his (the compradore's) own benefit. (5) Did the defendants' compradore receive the sum of \$40,961.30 from the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen?

(6) That the Chief Justice was wrong in refusing to leave to the jury the following questions which were submitted by defendants' counsel, namely: (1) Was the defendants' compradore authorized by the defendants to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (2) Did the defendants' compradore in fact get the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager before entering or purporting to enter into the exchange transactions in question with the plaintiff's agent, Lau Chung-yen? (3) Did the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen believe that the defendants' compradore had power to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (4) Was the defendants' compradore, in entering or purporting to enter the exchange transactions in question, acting for the benefit of the defendants or for his (the compradore's) own benefit. (5) Did the defendants' compradore receive the sum of \$40,961.30 from the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen?

(6) That the Chief Justice was wrong in refusing to leave to the jury the following questions which were submitted by defendants' counsel, namely: (1) Was the defendants' compradore authorized by the defendants to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (2) Did the defendants' compradore in fact get the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager before entering or purporting to enter into the exchange transactions in question with the plaintiff's agent, Lau Chung-yen? (3) Did the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen believe that the defendants' compradore had power to enter into exchange contracts without first getting the rate of exchange fixed by the defendants' manager? (4) Was the defendants' compradore, in entering or purporting to enter the exchange transactions in question, acting for the benefit of the defendants or for his (the compradore's) own benefit. (5) Did the defendants' compradore receive the sum of \$40,961.30 from the plaintiff's agent Lau Chung-yen?

so, did he receive it for the benefit of the defendants or for his own benefit? (c) And that the verdict of the jury in favour of the plaintiff might have been caused by the said misdirection of his Honour the Chief Justice, and by his refusal to leave to the jury the above questions.

Counsel then addressed the Court, and said he would venture with the utmost respect to impress upon the Court that which in the original action he had submitted to His Lordship the Chief Justice should have been put to the jury, as involving the material points which he thought were the law of the case. From the evidence adduced it was clear that defendants' compadore was in the matter of the original transaction pretending to be acting on defendants' behalf, but was simply getting money fraudulently for his own benefit. There was no analogy between an ordinary European bank clerk receiving money on behalf of depositors and a compadore receiving money. One particular distinction was that a bank clerk was a man to whom the money was handed over on behalf of the bank and nobody else, whereas a compadore had his own business to attend to, and money might be handed him for the latter purpose.

Mr. Slade argued that according to the cases quoted the liability of principals depended entirely on whether an agent had implied or expressed authority from the principals to put through transaction. In this case the compadore had in fact authority.

Their Lordships reserved judgment.

CHOLERA AT CANTON.

Our Canton Correspondent writes:—

Cholera broke out in the southern and eastern suburbs of the city a few days ago, and I am informed that it is spreading rapidly all over the city and many deaths have occurred. Quite a number of soldiers have contracted the disease and succumbed to it. It is said that the disease is of an acute nature and is difficult to cure. The military department are taking precautions to cope with the deadly epidemic. A temporary matched hospital has been erected for the treatment of the soldiers and special doctors were engaged to attend at the hospital and the barracks. Many of the barracks have been cleansed and disinfected. Prescriptions which have been proved to be effective are being distributed in the streets and published in the newspapers.

A SHANGHAI LIBEL ACTION.

An action for libel has been brought against the N.C. Daily News & Herald Ltd., by Messrs Home and Douglas, solicitors. The action arose out of the publication of a footnote appended by the Editor of the "North China Daily News" to a letter written by Messrs. Home and Douglas to the Editor stating that, in the event of a certain letter being published they had been instructed, if it contained any matters amounting to libel, to institute proceedings against the paper. The Editor published the letter of Messrs. Home and Douglas under the heading "A Case for the Law Society." The following is the footnote: "We have received the personal assurance of Mr. X. and the head of the Y. Z. that no such instructions were given by them to Messrs. Home and Douglas and they disassociate themselves entirely from the idea of intimidation. Will the Bar Society kindly take note?—Ed." In the following issue of the "North China Daily News" a paragraph appeared stating that it was obvious to it that Messrs. Home and Douglas had acted within instructions and unreservedly withdrew the suggestion that the firm had acted unprofessionally, at the same time expressing regret that such a suggestion was ever made. A telegram from Shanghai reports that the case was concluded on the 9th inst. when each complainant was awarded \$5,000 damages, and costs.

One fourth of the opium houses in the Settlement at Shanghai were closed on the 1st inst. in accordance with the proclamation issued by the Municipal Council and the Police. Lots were drawn many weeks ago to decide which of the houses should be included in the first lot to be closed.

THE GREAT FLOOD.

MORE HONGKONG CHARITY.

Two of the shareholders of the Cheung On Steamboat Co., Ltd., owners of the s.s. "San Cheong", in company with representatives of the Yat Kwong Kung See and the Kwong Fung Wing Firm of Hongkong on the night of the 26th June last proceeded on board that vessel to the Ching Yuen district laden with rice and provisions purchased to the extent of some \$5,000 or \$6,000 subscribed by the shareholders of the Cheung On Steamboat Co. Ltd., and the above mentioned Yat Kwong Kung See and the Kwong Fung Wing firm.

On arrival at Canton the cargo was transferred on to the steam launch "Hoi Ming" and into a cargo boat which was towed up the river to the Ching Yuen district. It was at once seen that the flood had inundated an extensive area and done incalculable damage to property, and 4,000 or 5,000 famine stricken people comprising men, women and children knelt down by the banks of the river and cried out for relief and succour from the relieving party. The relief party soon distributed all they had. As they went further up the river they saw thousands of people in the same sad circumstances.

The relief party arrived back in Hongkong by the s.s. "San Cheong" on the 2nd instant and the owners of this vessel are so grieved for the famine stricken people that they wish the public to know that any food or relief which is delivered to them for distribution amongst the famine stricken people will be delivered in Canton free of freight or any charge whatever.

THE RELIEF FUNDS.

Mid the terrible tales of suffering following on the disastrous floods on the West and North Rivers is the pleasing story of the spontaneous and generous sympathy of the Chinese here for their compatriots in distress. Whether they have heard of the maxim or not, they have shown they believe that "he who gives quickly lives twice," and the promptitude with which they instituted measures for the alleviation of the suffering in the stricken districts is worthy of the highest commendation. As is fairly well known, the Tung Wah Hospital rose to the occasion and despatched its launch with food stuffs and money as soon as possible after hearing of the occurrence and their good example was followed by other establishments. The Sincere Company despatched its launch with provisions which included 11,000 lbs of biscuits which Mr. Fung Wa Chun purchased from the military authorities at cost price and 25,000 lbs biscuits obtained from the Standard Oil Company, and the Chen Kwong firm also sent up a steamer with supplies for the destitute.

Subscriptions have been raised locally and it is satisfactory to note that the response has been very gratifying, foreign firms and Chinese contributing liberally to the relief funds. The Tung Wah Hospital has collected about \$10,000 on behalf of the sufferers, the Chinese Y. M. C. A. in conjunction with the Chinese churches raised about \$4,000, and a modest estimate would put the total collected from all sources in the Colony for this purpose at \$300,000.

Of course there is more to follow. Subscriptions are still coming in and the Bazaar to be opened on Friday by H.E. the Governor will it is hoped, result in a good sum being raised. We remarked yesterday that this Bazaar was the first attempt on the part of the Chinese to raise money by this Western method, and it is equally noteworthy that the occasion will also be the first on which Chinese ladies will participate in bazaars like their Western sisters. It certainly spells progress and it will be the earnest hope of everyone that not only will the Bazaar be as successful as it deserves, but that the forward tendencies which it has aroused will not be arrested.

The Committee of the Flood Fund Bazaar beg to acknowledge with thanks the following further gifts and donations:—

Messrs. Shewan Tomes & Co.—A large assortment of miscellaneous articles comprising Mumm Champagne, Claret, etc.; several coils of rope (from the Rope Company), 30 casks cement (from the Cement Company).

British American Tobacco Company.—25,000 Woodbine 10s. packets; 25,000 Pirate 10s.

packets; 50,000 Sunflower 10s. packets; 50,000 Rugby 10s. packets; 50,000 Rosette 10s. packets 1000 Cigarette cases.

Dr. Voretzsch (German Consul General), one beautiful fruit plate (Crown K.P.M. mark).

Mr. J. J. Laria (Portuguese Consul-General) an assortment of miscellaneous articles.

Hongkong Merchants Agency, two large carpets, one case Neave's Infant Food, two toilet sets, half dozen milk jugs and half dozen vegetable dishes.

Messrs. Harry Wicking & Co., assortment of one case cream, two boxes Plantol, one case Nestle's milk food, 20 cases Sunlight soap.

The French Convent, a large assortment of needlework etc.

Mr. D. Dorabjee (King Edward Hotel), 4,000 cakes.

Cassum Ahmed, 100 yards silk ribbon at cost price.

Sander Wiener & Co., one case (50 dozen) soap.

Gifts from Chinese—too numerous to mention in detail.

Our Canton Correspondent writes:—

The Theatre Guild have given a handsome donation of several thousands of dollars to the Relief Society. The fund was raised from tickets sold at the Tung Kwan Theatre. They selected the best actors, who performed for three days and four nights, and, notwithstanding the high price of the tickets, the house was full day and night.

On Saturday last Mr. Paul H. King, Commissioner of Customs here, took the lead in inaugurating a Relief Fund amongst the Customs staff, and in a short time the list ran up to several hundreds of dollars. Both the foreign and Chinese staffs subscribed most generously towards it.

Mr. H. H. Fox, Acting British Consul-General here, has also proposed to raise a Relief Fund. He sent a circular round to the British Community a few days ago, but the subscription is not out yet.

A HANDSOME JAPANESE DONATION.

Our Canton correspondent understands that the Japanese Consul there has subscribed \$20,000 towards the Liang Kwang relief fund. The Standard Oil Company also contributed a sum of \$3,000. The Chinese Imperial Postal Commissioner has also proposed to raise a relief fund amongst his staff.

KULANGSU (AMOI) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council, held at the Board Room, on the 16th June 1908. President:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace, (Chairman), C. A. V. Bowra, Huang Tsan-chow, W. Kruse, S. Okuyama, N. Wilson, the Health Officer and the Secretary.

1. The minutes of the last meeting are read and confirmed.
2. A letter is read from Yeo Kim An asking the Council to reduce his assessment. The Council consider his present assessment reasonable, and see no reason for altering it.
3. The Secretary reports a verbal complaint received from the German Consul concerning blasting operations going on at a quarry beneath his residence. It is decided to call on the owner to stop blasting, at the same time pointing out to him that there is, at present, no objection to ordinary quarrying. Should the owner desire to blast rock in the same neighbourhood but further away from the German Consul's residence, he must first obtain the Consul's consent, and, as it will mean opening a fresh quarry, another quarry license must be taken out.
4. A memorandum drawn up by the Superintendent of Police, to be sent through Consulates to ships of war arriving at this port, concerning Launches at Jetties, Landing of Picquets, and Trespassing, is read and approved.
5. The Superintendent of Police reports the following cases have been heard in the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—Sammonea. Allowing pigs and cattle to stray 17; Breach of Sampan Regulations 1; Throwing rubbish into the public drains 2; Gambling 1; Failing to keep a savage dog under proper control 1. Summary Arrests. Committing a nuisance 1; Theft 2; Making a false charge against the Mixed Court Magistrate 1; Being a rogue and vagabond &c. 1.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The newly constituted Sanitary Board met on July 7th for the first time. Mr. C. McI. Messer, the new president, took the chair, and another new personality was Dr. A. Gibson, as secretary; Dr. Pearse being also included in the personnel. There was present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Hon. Mr. Irving, Dr. Pearse, Dr. Macfarlane, Lieut. Colonel Reid, Mr. Shelton Hooper, and Mr. Lau Chu-pak.

The acting Secretary, Dr. Gibson, read the following letter addressed to the Secretary of the Sanitary Board:

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong.
7th July, 1908.

SIR—I am directed to acquaint you for information of the Board that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. C. McI. Messer to be administrative Head of the Sanitary Department and Dr. A. Gibson, C.V.S., to act as Secretary to the Board during the absence on leave of Mr. G. A. Woodcock, with effect from 2nd inst.—I am Sir, your obedient servant.

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

Mr. SHELTON HOOPER—I think before we proceed with the ordinary business that I shall be expressing the views and feelings of all members of this Board in congratulating you on the appointment the Governor has conferred on you as head of the administrative sanitary department and ex-officio president of this Board. His Excellency, in introducing the new legislation, and in outlining the constitution that he proposed to adopt for the administration of sanitary affairs in this Colony, said that he proposed to substitute for the Principal Civil Medical Officer of Health as head of this Board a cadet with experience of Chinese and their language and of proved administrative ability. I am sure that the Board will agree that the Governor has fulfilled that promise in appointing yourself. In looking over your record since you have been in the Colony for a little over ten years, I find you have acted as assistant Colonial Secretary, as magistrate, and you have been a member of the Legislative and Executive Councils. You must have proved your efficiency very early in your career because I find that you became a member of the Executive Council before you had ceased to be a cadet, and therefore we may look forward with pleasure to our association with you in presiding at this Board. I think that the future should be a period of usefulness, usefulness to the Government and usefulness to the Colony in general. If the administration is to be a success it can only be so with the co-operation of the unofficial members of this Board, and speaking for myself, and the other unofficial members of this Board you can be assured of that co-operation. You have a right to look to us for support in all deliberations and consideration of the various matters that come before us, and that support will be cheerfully given. We, on the other hand, have a right—and we shall look to you to see that we have it—we have a right to be treated equally with the officials and with you yourself. When presiding here you will not preside over a department of your own, but over a body, every member of which has equal rights with yourself. You are *unum inter pares*, with the exception that in addition to your deliberative vote you have a casting vote. I hope that in the era of usefulness which I trust we are now entering, there will be concerted action so that the sanitary condition of the Colony will be improved and the Colony raised once more to a clean and wholesome country in which the world's trade may be carried on without fear of contracting that terrible scourge which for the past decade has made a periodical appearance and hampered trade to a certain extent. In the past there has been a great outcry against the Sanitary laws of this Colony but I can say from experience that I don't think the fault has been with the law but with its administration. By that I don't mean administration solely by the head of the department but by the whole department. The subordinates have had too free a hand, not enough supervision to see that they carried out their duties intelligently and with that commonsense which, had it

been adopted, would have prevented a great deal of friction and a great deal of the corruption which has taken place in the past. This Board has been twitted in the Legislative Council with not exercising powers that we had, contained in the proviso of the Public Health Ordinance, and I think that that twitting was quite justifiable. It was intended when that law was passed to be sufficiently drastic to cover the worst case of property in the Colony, but it was intended by the proviso to make it sufficiently elastic that in sticking to the letter of the law we should accept its spirit and be more free with exemptions, when applied for. I think if that had been done there would have been less friction and less cause for altering the law on the part of the Government. With these words I would on behalf of the Board and of the unofficial members, congratulate you on your appointment. I think before I sit down it would not be out of place to say a few words about our late president, Dr. Atkinson. I can speak with regard to Dr. Atkinson better than I can with regard to yourself, for we have been intimately associated ever since he arrived in the Colony in November, 1887. He arrived a stranger to this Colony and had one of the most arduous tasks any man ever had, and I think that this is proved by some words which I shall quote from a speech made by Governor Des Voeux on the 30th November of that year. Dr. Atkinson had been in the Colony then something less than a fortnight. The Governor said "I may say we, as you are aware, have just got a new surgeon, and two ward-masters who are responsible for what has occurred are in gaol on a very serious charge. We have, as I say, just got a new medical man who comes with a good reputation, and I must say he has impressed me very strongly with his extreme desire to place things in a better condition, and I think it would only be fair to wait a few weeks and see what he does before we enter on a commission of enquiry which would give a deal of trouble and very likely do no more good than he will be able to do himself. He has impressed me as likely to be an efficient man, at all events he is a very zealous man." That was a prophecy concerning Dr. Atkinson's career within a fortnight of his arrival, and on looking over Dr. Atkinson's first report six or seven months after, he stated that he was "very much surprised and perplexed at the state of affairs then existing at the hospital. The two European ward-masters were on their trial for robbing patients under their care and the nursing staff was in a state of disorganisation." With regard to the criminal charge we have nothing to do, but with regard to the nursing organisation most of us know the state of efficiency in which it is now, and that is all due to Dr. Atkinson. I will now say a few words speaking rather as a member of the Commission than as a member of this Board, because it was through the Commission making the report it did, and recommending the Government that the Principal Civil Medical Officer of Health should relinquish his duties as head of the Sanitary Department and therefore as president of this Board, that the change has been made. The Commission in making that recommendation had nothing but praise for Dr. Atkinson as a man, as a doctor and as a conscientious Government Officer. But we pointed out to the Government that as he was a member of the Executive Council, Medical Adviser to the Governor, head of the Medical Department, had supervision of the Medical Staff, etc., we felt that it would not be human to ask a man to devote so much time to the administration of this department as its importance merited. On these grounds, and these alone, the change was recommended. The Government, when it read the criticisms in the Commission report, acquiesced in that, and Dr. Atkinson himself quite agreed with it, and said that he could not continue the labours in this department with justice to himself. Therefore we were all agreed that some change should take place. The change the Commission recommended, however, was not adopted by the Government, but that is a controversial matter which I am not going to allude to to-day. They proposed in the alternative one which I for one am willing to give a trial, and to give every support I can to the incumbent of the office which you now hold. By this legislation another change

was effected, and we lose the services of the Captain Superintendent of Police, Captain Lyons. It is with very much regret that we heard he had to leave the Board, because he always brought to the consideration and deliberation of matters before us an even mind and common sense, besides which he had served on the Sanitary Board in the Straits Settlements. His place, however, has been taken by the Medical Officer of Health, and although I was one of the most strenuous to oppose the appointment because I looked upon him virtually as a servant, and being a member I considered he would be stultified in giving a vote, his Excellency has stated that that officer is not bound to record his vote in accordance with any recommendation he may have advised, in his official capacity. At the Board he can view the question from the additional standpoints of finance and policy. I need not say any more except of the personal occupant at this time of this office. I am sure that this Colony has never had a man with a higher technical knowledge of hygiene since a similar officer has been appointed by the Government.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—I have great pleasure in endorsing the none too just and laudatory remarks which have just come from the eloquent tongue of our common colleague and friend, Mr. Hooper. During the eight years since I have had the honour to serve on this Board I have noticed that on no few occasions there have been cases which would disturb the equanimity of mind of the average man, and it is to the credit of our late president that he invariably conducted the case with great tact and in a manner which I should say was very generous, and he generally showed himself to be courteous and patient. Such qualities from the chairman of a semi-official body like the Sanitary Board are to be appreciated, and in my opinion, can only be in the possession of an official of no mean capabilities. Of Captain Lyons my knowledge is not of so long standing, but what little I have seen of him is quite sufficient to enable me to come to the conclusion that he is a gentleman who is ever ready to hear both sides, and to give fair play and justice. As regards yourself, Sir, I have known you since you acted as Registrar-General some years ago. At that time in all my dealings with you I found you always fair, reasonable, considerate and courteous, and with plenty of common sense which, I hope, will now pervade your administration of the new Ordinance. With these few words I join in wishing you a hearty welcome to this Board, and in doing so I would extend a hearty welcome to our friend Dr. Pearse whose sensibility and sound advice have guided many of us for many years. Dr. Pearse's abilities and good points are too well-known to need my mentioning. As regards the other matters referred to by our friend Mr. Hooper, he has said sufficient and expressed the opinions of the other members of the Board so fully that I need scarcely refer to them again.

The PRESIDENT—I thank you for the kind remarks made, gentlemen, and trust your prophecies will come true.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—I thank Mr. Hooper and Mr. Lau Chu-pak very much.

RAT RETURNS.

The rat returns for the weeks ended June 27th and July 4th showed that 200 and 126 rats respectively had been caught. Of the former number nine were infected and of the latter none.

Captain LYONS minuted—The great falling in the numbers caught calls for more vigorous action in the campaign against rats.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The death rate for the week ended June 27th was 31.6 per 1,000 in the British and foreign community as compared with 16.4 in the corresponding week of last year and 36.1 per 1,000 of the whole Colony as compared with 24.1 per 1,000 in the corresponding week of last year.

*The Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China announce that the Right Hon. Lord George Hamilton, G.C.S.I., has joined the board of directors in succession to Mr. William Christian, who has resigned after holding office for thirty-four years.

THE PROPOSED TYPHOON REFUGE.

MEMORANDUM BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR

The following correspondence has been forwarded by the Chamber of Commerce for publication:

Colonial Secretary's Office,
20th May, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 1st May on the subject of Light Dues, with its enclosures.

His Excellency is anxious that your Chamber should be in full possession of the reasons which have led him to the conclusions he has formed, and he has therefore desired me to enclose a Memorandum which he has prepared on the subject for your information.

I enclose the plans and estimates for the scheme, which, as you are aware from the official reports in the *Gazette* of the proceedings of the Legislative Council, have already been submitted to the Public Works Committee of that body. The subject of the cost of the shelter is dealt with in His Excellency's Memorandum.

With regard to the question asked in the anti-penultimate paragraph of your letter, I am to state that the revenue derived from the increased fees on cargo boats, lighters and waterboats was made in the interest of General Revenue since it was considered that the fees were low.

The increase based on last year's receipts will amount to \$18,000 per annum.

With regard to the suggestion put forward in the second paragraph of the enclosure to your letter I am to state that the Government is at a loss to understand how such tax could be properly distributed seeing that much of the underwriting is done outside the Colony, and I am to enquire how your Committee would propose to give effect to their suggestion.

I am, &c.,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary to

The Hongkong General Chamber of
Commerce.

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RE LIGHT DUES.

Reasons for undertaking Typhoon Shelter.—The vital necessity and urgency of this work has been pressed repeatedly upon Government by the Unofficial Members of Council, and my predecessor gave a pledge that Government would undertake it without delay, and would contribute a sum equal to that subscribed by the community towards the Typhoon relief fund, viz.—\$279,903. The balance of this fund was handed over to Government. It amounted to \$35,804 and has been earmarked as a fund for relief in similar circumstances in the future. On my arrival in the Colony it devolved upon me to make good Sir Matthew Nathan's pledge, and when the estimates were discussed in September last Messrs. Osborne and Hewett again very strongly urged the necessity for the shelter and blamed Government for delay. From what I can gather they voiced the wishes of the Community.

Reasons for Delay.—This delay had arisen in the first place owing to a protracted discussion as to the comparative merits of different sites, and in the second place to the time required for making a reliable estimate, and in endeavouring to find an alternative and cheaper scheme.

Cost.—When the project was first broached a rough calculation for foot run was made merely for the purpose of contrasting the comparative cost of the different sites proposed, and the one at Mongkoktsui was on this basis of calculation put down at \$600,000. When this site had finally been decided upon, a detailed estimate was prepared by Mr. Boulton, than whom there is probably no one better qualified for the task.

It was received last Autumn, and communicated by me to the Council in my speech when introducing the estimates. The amount was \$1,400,000, and the great increase was stated to be partly due to a rise in prices of materials, and partly to the fact that the typhoon of September, 1906, had shown that a much higher and more substantial sea-wall would be required than had been contemplated, before the experience gained by that

disastrous gale. This sum appeared to me to be beyond our present resources, and I referred it back to Mr. Boulton with a view to the preparation of a less costly scheme which would, if possible, give partial protection, and be capable of later development as funds permitted. The result was that after careful revision his estimate was increased to \$1,540,000 instead of decreased, and that he reported that no partial or progressive scheme was possible. The alternative was to decrease the area of the shelter from 166 acres to 57 acres at a cost of \$883,800. The Engineer's report and estimates were referred to the Public Works Committee of the Legislative Council of which the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce is a member and they unanimously recommend the larger scheme at Mongkoktsui.

Method of meeting Cost.—After a most careful investigation of the liabilities of the Government and the available revenue which I need not detail at length in this Memorandum but which on fitting opportunity I shall fully explain, I satisfied myself that I had no alternative but to raise the light dues temporarily in the way which has been described to the Chamber of Commerce.

The following are among the reasons which led me to this conclusion.

(a) On the last occasion when an increase of revenue was found to be necessary (in 1902) practically all licences were largely increased but no additional contribution was asked from shipping. Its ability to contribute was recognised, but it was reserved for the next occasion which might arise.

(b) This liability was recognised in December 1896 when the unofficial members with one exception unanimously recommended that the imposition of a permanent tonnage due of 1½ cents in addition to the 1 cent Light dues on the grounds that shipping should pay its fair proportion to the revenue.

(c) It arises from the fact that shipping benefits directly both in respect of capital expenditure on works, and in respect of increased efficiency in administrative machinery. In 1842 the Colony could offer nothing but a harbour infested by pirates and ships watered from a waterfall near Aberdeen. There is now efficient police protection, hospitals, markets, better and cheaper water supply, various useful institutions like the Sailors Home, good wharves and piers for landing and discharging cargo, and a well organised Harbour Department which regulates native craft.

(d) The principle that shipping should contribute to general revenue is recognised by the United States of America, which assigned shipping dues to national debt charges, defence, and general revenue. In reply to a petition from the Shipping interest in 1897 Mr. Chamberlain replied:—"If at any time hereafter urgent necessity should arise for increasing general revenue I should be prepared to consider any proposal for again raising the shipping dues" and again in 1902 he gave it as his view that a special tax should be levied to cover any harbour improvement.

(e) In my view the typhoon shelter is a great "harbour improvement" which moreover directly benefits Ocean shipping in that lighters and small craft which now bolt for the inadequate refuge at Causeway Bay on the first indication of a typhoon and so leave the Ocean steamers sometimes, I believe, for several days unable to load or discharge, and thus subject them to much delay and expense, will, when the new typhoon refuge is built, be able to remain to the last moment secure in the knowledge that they can gain an entrance, however late.

If, however, this direct benefit to Ocean shipping should be disputed, the principles put forward in (c) and (d) go to show that Shipping is liable for contribution to any harbour improvement and even to purposes of general revenue.

(f) It has been argued that the imposition of any dues beyond the amount actually spent on lights and buoys would mean that Hongkong would no longer be a "Free Port." A "Free Port" is one in which no Customs dues are charged. Copenhagen, a free port, charges the equivalent of six pence a ton, while Shanghai charges the equivalent of 14 cents per ton.

Others have urged that the Proclamation of 1842 made exemption of all dues, an increase would violate that pledge. The Proclamation

was not in the nature of a treaty or pledge to third parties but was merely a statement of the policy of the day viz:—to attract commerce to a new and undeveloped port. The policy of to-day is to charge a very moderate rate for improvements effected on behalf of shipping.

(g) It has been urged that the Colony owes its prosperity to shipping which would avoid the Port if dues are levied. There are those who maintain that shipping which would avoid the Port for dues so small as these, were better away. The dues were raised to 2½ cents between April 1890 and October 1897 to pay for the Gap Rock Lighthouse, and between these dates the tonnage increased from 4,893,733 tons to 6,063,640 tons. The inducement of ships to come to this port is not that they have nothing to pay, but in order to earn freights, and proportionately as Hongkong becomes an industrial centre her shipping will increase. Our geographical position is equally advantageous to us as an industrial centre as it is as a Port of Call.

(h) The Chamber of Commerce appear to contend that the amount imposed upon shipping is too great, and that other interests should contribute a portion. Only half of the cost is asked from the shipping, and though I am not at present able to forecast the financial requirements of next year and shall not be in a position to do so till the draft estimates are before me, I fear that the shipping interest is by no means likely to be the only one which will have to submit to increased taxation, looking to the large increase of revenue necessary for payment of interest on railway expenditure, the fall in exchange, the prospect of decline in opium revenue, and the continued loss due to discount on subsidiary coins.

(i) The Chamber of Commerce urge that the sum to be raised should be spread over a longer term of years, with a proportionate decrease in the extra dues. There is no point which has been more strongly emphasized by the representatives of the Community in Council than that the construction of the refuge should be pushed on with the utmost rapidity, and should not be allowed to occupy so long a time as the Post Office and Law Courts are doing. A period of five years has been estimated for the work, but if it should take longer than that time, it may be possible to spread the contribution for the last year or two over a longer period. Government however is not able to supply the capital for the commencement of the work, and to rely on gradually recouping itself over a long series of years, nor, in view of the existing loans which amount to above one-tenth of revenue, am I able to recommend to the Secretary of State, nor would he agree to a proposal for, a loan for such a purpose. I do not enter into this matter in detail in this Memorandum however, since it has already extended to considerable length.

F. D. LUGARD.

8th May, 1908.

MEMO. BY THE HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
WORKS.

I beg to submit the accompanying plan and section of the proposed boat-shelter at Mongkoktsui and the following report:—

The plan shows, in red, the long breakwater originally proposed, and, in green, a short breakwater now suggested, but not commended. The section shows a design which has been prepared after full consideration of the effects of the 1906 typhoon.

The bulk of the work could be carried out by native contractors. The concrete blockwork is the only part of the structure which would have to be carried out departmentally, and very little special plant would be required for it. A dredger would have to be hired from the Dock Company or Messrs. Punchard Lowther & Co., for the purpose of excavating the trench for the foundations.

The blockwork is expensive but necessary, because three tons is the maximum weight of the boulders to be got by junks, and such blocks are too small to withstand the action of the sea at or near low-tide level. The concrete blocks would extend down to 7 feet below Ordnance Datum, at which depth the three-ton boulders would not be liable to disturbance by the waves.

I estimate the cost of this design at \$370,000 per lineal foot and the total cost of the long breakwater as follows:—

4,000 lineal feet @ \$370 ...	\$1,480,300
Extra labour and materials at heads	60,000
Total ...	\$1,540,000

The actual cross-section of the long breakwater at any point would not differ materially from the average cross-section shown; and judging by the borings taken in connection with the proposed work, and by the soundings on the Admiralty Charts, the average cross section of the short breakwater, or of any other breakwater in the neighbourhood of it, would approximate closely to the average cross section shown.

With reference to the question of bringing within certain limits the cost of any works to be undertaken, I have to say that nothing but a complete breakwater would be of any practical use, as the Observatory records of the 1906 typhoon alone, are sufficient to show (vide attached Diagram) showing the average hourly direction and velocity of the wind during the typhoon on the morning of the 18th September, 1906).

The short breakwater suggested on the plan would give a sheltered area equal to Causeway Bay. This would be worth having; but there would seem to be too many expensive difficulties in the way to admit of the suggestion being acted on.

The area is small, and the width of the entrance would have to be proportionately small; but the north entrance cannot be placed close to the north shore, owing to a rocky shoal which exists at that point. A jetty would therefore be constructed on the shoal, and the entrance would be immediately to the South of it, as shown on the plan.

The estimated cost of the short breakwater, and the jetty is as follows:—

1,940 lineal feet of breakwater at \$370	\$717,800 00
Extra labour and materials at heads.	60,000 00
Jetty	106,000 00
	\$883,800 00

The area enclosed by the short breakwater would be liable to become so packed with small craft as to cause a serious obstruction to the marine frontages abutting on the area; and seas running off the south-east end of the breakwater would impinge on the marine frontages immediately south of the entrance.

To avoid complicated claims from the lot-owners affected it would probably be necessary to resume all the lots between Kowloon Marine Lot 32 and Kowloon Marine Lot 39 and strengthen the sea wall between the south entrance and Kowloon Marine Lot 39.

J. F. B.

28th September, 1907.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPLY TO THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL.

On receipt of the memorandum by H. E. the Governor the Committee of the Chamber issued the following letter to the Shipping Firms who signed the letter to the Chamber, dated 23rd April:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 29th May, 1908.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed to forward for your perusal and consideration the enclosed copies of the Government's reply to the Chamber's letter regarding the proposed Typhoon Harbour of Refuge at Mongkoktsui and Memoranda by His Excellency and the Hon. the Director of Public Works.

The plans mentioned therein may be seen at the Chamber between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 a.m. from the 1st June to the 6th June inclusive, and my Committee trust that you will take this opportunity of examining the scheme and estimates and that you will afterwards favour the Committee with your further views on the subject.—I am, dear Sir, Yours faithfully,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 3rd July.

SIR.—I am directed to reply to your letter of 20th May, 1908, (No. 9286-1907) on the subject of the proposed Harbour of Refuge at Mongkoktsui, and the imposition of additional Light Dues to defray half the cost thereof.

My Committee have submitted the plans and estimates to the general body of British Shipping Companies, or their Agents, for their consideration, and the expression of their further views on this important subject.

I am to enclose for His Excellency's perusal, a copy of a letter since received from them, together with their memoranda mentioned in paragraph two of such letter.

I am to state that my Committee wish to associate themselves with the views of the Shipping Companies, as contained in their letter to this Chamber and the accompanying memoranda, and would ask His Excellency to accept such letter and Memoranda as an expression of opinion by the Chamber of Commerce.

I return with this the plans and estimates and am directed to request you to express the thanks of my Committee to His Excellency for the opportunity accorded them of examining the scheme and commenting thereon.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hon. MR. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong, 23rd June, 1908.

SIR,—We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo enclosing copies of the Government's reply to your Chamber's letter regarding the proposed Typhoon Harbour of Refuge at Mongkoktsui and Memoranda by His Excellency and the Hon. Director of Public Works, for which we have to thank you.

For the sake of brevity we attach memoranda we have drawn up regarding the proposed refuge, and our notes on some of the points affecting the shipping trade and taxation of Hongkong, dealing with the comments made by His Excellency.

We are strongly of opinion that immediate steps should be taken to improve the refuge at Causeway Bay, half of which at the present time is practically useless owing to silt. We think that, on this being done, it will provide shelter for the greater part, if not the whole, of the smaller craft employed in the Harbour.

Should the Government, however, be definitely committed to the Mongkoktsui scheme we rely on your Chamber to advocate that they adopt a scheme on the lines laid down in our memorandum, by which the cost—but not necessarily the work—is spread over a term of years, and will thus fall less heavily on those who have to contribute to the cost of the works, a policy which is usually adopted by port trusts and cities borrowing money for permanent improvements.

With reference to the Colonial Secretary's reply to our enquiry regarding the increased fees on cargo boats, lighters and water boats, we are surprised to learn that the increase was made in the interest of General Revenue on the ground that such fees were considered to be law. We are of the opinion that fees derived from such a source should be devoted to the up-keep of the various branches of the Harbour Department; and that any surplus should be applied to works such as the dredging of Causeway Bay or the erection of a typhoon shelter. We would point out that from past records, Mr. Chamberlain mentioned the revenue derived from native Shipping was to be applied to the Harbour Master's Department, as apart from what may be termed the General Budget of the Colony.

We have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servants,

F. J. ABBOTT, Acting Supt. P. & O. S. N. Company.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents, Ocean Steam Ship Co., Ltd., Agents, China Mutual Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Agents, China Navigation Co., Ltd.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., General Managers, Indo China S. N. Co., Ltd., Agents, Indra Line Ltd.

DODWELL & Co., Ltd., Edgar G. Barrett, Manager.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY Co. D. W. CRADDOCK, General Traffic Agent.

DOUGLAS, LAPEAUX & Co., General Managers, Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents "Ben" Line of Steamers, Agents E. & A. S. S. Co., Ltd.

SHEWAN, TOMES & Co., General Managers, China Manila S. S. Co., Ltd., General Agents, America Asiatic S. S. Co., Ltd., Agents, Shire Line of Steamers, Ltd., MCGREGOR BROS & GOW, General Managers, "Glen" Line of Steamers.
HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT Co., Ltd., W. E. CLARK, Secretary.
DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd., Agents Apcar Line.

To The Chairman,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

MEMORANDUM FROM THE BRITISH SHIPPING LINES TO THE CHAMBER OF COM.

MERCEDEN LIGHT DUES.

Typhoon Shelter.—If the Government has not definitely decided to build the New Harbour of Refuge at Mongkoktsui there are various reasons against the site,

1. *Too big.*—contemplated size not required at present;—unwise to build as intended when the necessity is not apparent.

2. *Cost*—prohibitive in Colony's present financial condition.

3. *Accessibility.*—It is no more accessible than the present refuge.

These reasons are all in favour of first improving the present site at Causeway Bay (which is in a disgraceful state), and watching the result. In favour of this, it is contended that:—

1. *Cost of dredging* is not excessive.

2. *Accessibility* is equal to new site proposed.

3. *Area* is large enough for all practical purposes. Lighters and large junks can ride at anchor as they have always done, and small craft can be well accommodated at Causeway Bay in ordinary typhoons.

4. *Safety of Craft.* For a typhoon unsignalled, as in 1906, no refuge of any size or description or situation would be of any avail.

Mongkoktsui Shelter.—Suggested method of meeting cost.

If the Government is definitely committed to the Mongkoktsui scheme there is nothing further to be said except for the shipping to present their views as to financing the work. They would repeat that this should be arranged to extend over a longer period than that proposed by the Government and that the extra tax on shipping should not exceed ½ cent per ton net register. The financial arrangement should be separate and distinct from the general finances of the Colony. This can be done, if necessary, without the Government contracting a special loan. Any of the local Banks will be glad to lend the money as an ordinary overdraft at 6 per cent, if guaranteed by the Government, the Shipping Companies guaranteeing to pay the extra ½ cent per net register ton until the cost is finally paid off, the account to be reduced by the payment monthly into the Bank providing the money, of the total realised by the extra ½ cent, together with an equal amount representing the Government's half share of the cost. By this means the urgency of the work suffers no delay.

References to Government Memorandum.

(a) Owing to the increased size of steamers heavier dues have to be paid than heretofore. In most instances steamers have not brought or taken away more cargo than formerly, but the cost of coaling has been increased. The Colony has consequently benefited.

(b), (d) and (h) In reply to the petition in 1897, Mr. Chamberlain also stated, "I occur in your views that moderate dues may probably be levied in Hongkong provided the proceeds do not at ordinary times exceed the total expenditure of the Harbour Department including Light Houses, Water Police, &c."

Lord Selbourne at the same time and with the same proviso regarding the expenditure of the Harbour Department wrote that Mr. Chamberlain had under his consideration to adopt one of the two following alternatives, viz " (1) a uniform charge of two cents (instead of 2½ cents) per ton on all shipping or (2) a charge on a graduated scale such as is levied at Gibraltar beginning at 2½ cents per ton on smaller vessels and rising to a maximum charge of (say) \$30 to \$40 on ships of (say) 1800 tons and over."

From these extracts it can be only concluded that it was not the wish or intention of the Home Government to levy a heavy tax on steamers. On the existing scale many steamers are paying heavier dues than Mr. Chamberlain (2) contemplated.

In 1896-1897 a fair average Ocean steamer was 3000 tons register tonnage dues at 1 cent \$28 at 2½ cents \$70.

To-day Ocean steamers are often 5000 tons register tonnage dues at 1 cent \$50 at 2½ cents \$125.

(c) Harbour Police should be, and we believe is, paid out of light dues.

Hospitals.

Markets.

Water Supply.

Services under this heading are paid for by Shipping Companies at market rates to the financial benefit of the Colony—there is no favour—the obligation is mutual.

Sailors Home pays for itself, we believe, and it would be interesting to learn what share the Government pays for any advantages derived therefrom by the Shipping.

Wharves and Piers. Government have charged Shipping Companies very highly for Crown Rent, &c. and piers and wharves are erected by private enterprise. Shipping pays directly for every service rendered.

Cost of Harbour Department is more than paid for out of Light Dues.

(f) Free Port. Shipping Companies do not protest against extra taxation altogether on their own account; they can always "even up" on rates so that ultimately all additional taxation is met by consumers, but the Government should tread cautiously in the direction of increasing the burdens on shipping, for, if taxation is increased beyond reason, owners will have to protect themselves by increasing rates to the disadvantage of Hongkong vis-à-vis other ports.

The difference of even half a cent per picul might mean that transshipment of thousands of tons of cargo would be diverted from Hongkong and delivered direct to Manila, Shanghai, Canton and elsewhere. The Shipping Companies can view such a transfer of trade with equanimity, because they can deliver and collect cargo in Manila or Shanghai or elsewhere with equal facility, but the Hongkong Government would realise, when perhaps it was too late, that they had driven trade into the hands of a competing port, willing and anxious to secure the trade.

In the Philippines the American Government has lately spent large sums in improving their harbours, and the ports are absolutely free—no tonnage dues or light dues—and as a consequence railway material and other home cargo which used to come via Hongkong is now carried direct to the Philippines, while hemp and other exports which previously were transhipped at this port, are increasingly shipped direct from Manila.

Shanghai are similarly improving the Whangpoo, not at the expense of Shipping, but in order to attract it. Shanghai is not a free port and does not claim to be, but how is the 14 cents per ton made up? China charges tonnage dues at the rate of four mace per net register ton—61 Mexican cents for four months. For this levy steamers have the privilege of calling at any and all China Ports as many times as they like for a period of four months without extra charge of any kind, and should steamers be laid up during the period an extension is granted. Contrast the services rendered by the Chinese Government with that by the Hongkong Government. There is no comparison. The China Coast is one of the best lighted in the world and the service second to none. On some of the regular coasting lines the charge of four mace every four months actually works out less than the Hongkong dues of one cent per net register ton levied every time a steamer calls.

If it is correct that the Colony does not owe its prosperity to Shipping it will not be disputed, we presume, that it is the trade which attracts it here. If that trade is driven elsewhere by excessive taxation either direct or indirect it will be lost to the Colony but not to the shipping which can readily follow it. How easily shipping followed the trade to Manchester when the Canal was opened, how quickly it left Macao for Hongkong, and Chefoo for Tsingtau, when lack of attention to its approaches in the one case and railway development in the other carried the produce of the hinterlands to the neighbouring ports.

Hongkong of itself is not naturally an industrial centre. It has risen to be one by the freedom and cheapness of the port that is the advantage that has enabled the Colony to

rise above natural disadvantages, and if we are to continue to prosper this advantage must not be interfered with; if it is, just as surely as taxation is increased and cost of production levelled to other places, will the port decay.

DEATH OF A GERMAN CONSUL.

We regret to record the death at the Peak Hospital Hongkong, on Sunday last of Herr H. von Varchmin, German Consul for Pakhoi and Hoihow. The Consul was brought to Hongkong suffering from a severe attack of dysentery, and had been in the hospital only three days. His remains were laid to rest on Monday in the Protestant Cemetery at the Happy Valley. The cortege was joined at the Monument by a considerable number of mourners which included the German Consul at Hongkong (Dr. Jur. E. A. Voretzsch), the German Consul at Canton (Dr. E. Heintges), the American Consul at Hongkong (Dr. A. P. Wilder), the Commandant (Korv. Kapt. Gr. v. Posadowsky-Wehner), officers and bluejackets of the S. M. K. "Jaguar" several British naval officers, and the leading business men of the German community. The coffin, of polished oak, bore the inscription:

Hans Von Varchmin

Died July 5th, 1908.

Aged 40 years.

The German flag enveloped the coffin, which was borne to the graveside by six blue-jackets. The Rev. J. Muller conducted the service which was of a very impressive nature. The floral tributes were very beautiful, the chief being from the German Consulates at Hongkong, Canton, Shanghai and from the Deutsch Asiatische Bank.

PLAGUE IN SAIGON.

We note in Saigon papers that plague, which had numerous victims in the city last year, has re-appeared. The Clayton apparatus is being used to disinfect the city. In one paper we note a comment to the following effect:—"Saigon is the one and only port remaining open to Hongkong, which is declared infected by plague by all the ports of the Far East. It is necessary to believe that we have nothing to fear from Hongkong, the plague being already installed comfortably enough in our own colony."

In Indo-China great importance is attached to inoculation as a prophylactic, but M. Bouheure, the Acting Governor of Indo-China, in a circular to the Health Department intimates that following on the considerable use of anti-plague serum during the last two years the Pasteur Institute of Paris has exhausted the reserve which it possessed, and it is not possible to count on a new supply for a year. In these circumstances the quantity which exists in Indo-China will be strictly reserved for the treatment of confirmed cases, but preventive vaccinations will be effected with Haffkine vaccine which the Institute at Nha-trang is able to produce.

The news of this deficiency has provoked vehement criticism of the Health Department.

A PROMISING BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

Some few months ago a Chinese gentleman who announced that he would be known as Joseph Overbeck Anderson was admitted to practice as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Hongkong. It is interesting to learn that he has just accepted an appointment from H.E. Viceroy Tuen Fang to be legal adviser to His Honour Taotai Tsai Nai Wang of Shanghai and the Director of Foreign Affairs at Nanking.

Mr. Anderson was educated at the Queen's College at Hongkong. In 1903 he proceeded to England where he studied his profession in Lincoln's Inn and was called to the Bar three years afterwards. He returned to the East quite recently and was duly admitted to practise in both the Supreme Court of Hongkong and that of China and Korea in Shanghai.

He is at present staying at the Astor House in Shanghai. He called officially on the Viceroy at Nanking last week, Taotai Tsai, accompanying him, and was warmly received and entertained by His Excellency.

SIR WALTER HILLIER'S APPOINTMENT.

Our Tientsin correspondent writes.—

Renter's recent announcement of the appointment of Sir Walter Hillier to be adviser to the Chinese Government has given rise to endless discussion and conjectures. In Tientsin and Peking some who profess to be in the know in such matters gave it out that here was the new Inspector-General of the I.M.C. in place of Sir Robert Hart. It need not be said that this view or assumption or rumour found acceptance only among those with whom the wish was father to the thought.

Among the Peking rumours as to Sir Walter Hillier's appointment is one that he has come out temporarily at a very high salary, and that he has come at the invitation of the Chinese Government, or at any rate at the invitation of very high officials, and that he is being paid by the Chinese. According to one well informed authority, Sir Walter has come out for one or more specific pieces of work, but not in connexion with the Imperial Maritime Customs, or at any rate not in connexion with any permanent Customs appointment, and certainly not in connexion with the Inspector-Generalship.

Another rumour, which has obtained much acceptance, though it emanated from a quite unofficial source, is that Sir Walter Hillier has come out as a Financial Adviser in anticipation of the Chinese Government undertaking some scheme of financial reform. Perhaps the basis of this report may be the fact that Sir Walter's brother is manager of the Peking Branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. There is reason for thinking that financial reform is among schemes which may shortly become questions of practical politics.

As a matter of fact, however, there is the very best possible authority for saying that Sir Walter Hillier himself knows nothing more about his appointment than he himself read in Renter's telegram. So much then for Peking rumours.

One of the Hongkong papers has written of Sir Walter Hillier as though he were still in London. As a matter of fact, Sir Walter and Lady Hillier are already in Peking, and have been for some time. Their presence in the capital would have been regarded as an ordinary pleasure visit, had it not been for Renter's telegram about the appointment. Sir Walter has numerous friends in the capital. I have the best reason possible for reiterating that all reports professing to announce the object of the appointment are based merely on guesswork, and that beyond the fact that he has been retained as adviser, Sir Walter himself is as yet unaware of any special case in which his services are to be employed.

WHOLESALE POISONING OF SOLDIERS IN INDO-CHINA.

Hanoi papers report a dastardly attempt to kill off by poison the men of the Artillery and the Ninth Colonial Regiment at Hanoi. After partaking of soup on the night of Saturday the 28th ult. the men, by hundreds, were seized with violent colic and other indications of dangerous illness. All who were not suffering were called out and the defence of Hanoi was rapidly organised. Then inquiries began to be made, and it was recognised that the Doi and the Cai of the Compagnie d'ouvriers were the authors of this criminal attempt. They were all arrested, and 83 men of the artillery and 82 of the Ninth Colonial Regiment were conveyed to hospital.

It was subsequently ascertained that the poison employed was arsenic, but fortunately it was diluted to such an extent that it failed to have the desired effect.

It was also ascertained that on the Saturday evening when the poison was observed to take effect, about a score of natives cycled round to the camp of the tirailleurs, and when the news spread the whole band disappeared. At the same time upon the road to Sontay, a Cai and a native were seen cutting the telegraph lines. Another important detail is that all the officers of the 1st Tonkinois experienced the effects of the poison but not a single tirailleur was indisposed.

Altogether sixty men were placed under arrest in connection with the affair and are to be tried by Court Martial.

A CANTON TRAGEDY.

CHINESE LAW AND JUSTICE.

Our Canton Correspondent writes:—

A rather peculiar murder case came on for trial before the Manchu sub-prefect the other day. This Court is established for the exclusive purpose of trying cases in which Manchus and Bannermen are involved, and the sub-prefect is always a Manchu official appointed by the Throne. A Manchu, surnamed Pak charged his son-in-law's father, a wealthy Manchu named Ying Sze, with having murdered his (the prosecutor's) daughter by beating her to death. Ying Sze pleaded that deceased had committed suicide.

In the afternoon of the 3rd instant the sub-prefect went to Ying Sze's house with two expert undertakers of the Nam Hoi Magistracy to examine the corpse in order to find out whether deceased died a natural death, committed suicide, or was murdered. After a lengthy examination both undertakers pronounced that they were unable to state whether death had resulted through violence or suicide. It appears that it had been common talk among the people of the neighbourhood that deceased had been constantly ill-treated by her husband and the father-in-law and one of Ying Sze's servants spread the report that deceased was brutally murdered.

While the examination was proceeding inside the house a large crowd (over 1,000 men) had collected outside to learn the result of the examination. On hearing the unsatisfactory statement of the official undertakers the crowd became wild with rage. Many rushed into the house, and accused the undertakers of receiving bribes from the defendant, and demanded that other expert undertakers be at once sent for from the Pun Yu Magistracy to examine the body. Others who were outside pounced upon the sub-prefect's petty officers, chair-coolies and his retinue of official followers and gave them a severe thrashing. The sub-prefect on hearing the wild shouts and disturbance made by the angry mob, pacified them by telephoning a request to the Pun Yu Magistrate to dispatch post-haste two of his expert undertakers, and at the same time he took the precaution to telephone for reinforcements from several police stations. Shortly afterwards the Pun Yu Magistrate replied that his official undertakers had all gone up country.

The Police reinforcements had not arrived by 9 p.m., and the Sub-prefect dared not leave the house unprotected, so in order to keep the minds of the mob occupied he called Ying Sze's son and questioned him. During the investigation the son stated that his father did not beat deceased and had nothing to do with her death; but that deceased was strangled to death by his sister. Reinforcements of police having arrived, the Sub-prefect adjourned examination of the body and left with ample protection.

On the following day he came with two other undertakers of the Nam Hoi Magistracy who upon investigation stated that deceased had died through violence as there were two marks on the neck and several on her chest. The son was thereupon arrested and the case was tried in the Sub-prefect's Court on the 5th inst. Ying Sze's daughter was summoned to appear before the Court at the trial. She stated that she only beat deceased twice on the head with her fan, but that her mother (Ying Sze's wife) had beaten deceased to death. Ying Sze's wife was immediately summoned and when she appeared in Court she callously admitted that she killed her daughter-in-law by beating her. The mother-in-law was sentenced to a short term of imprisonment.

The case seems to have been a very mixed-up affair. The mother-in-law took the responsibility when she saw that the crime was discovered. Any other member of the family would have suffered a severe sentence, death in the case of the sister, deportation in the case of the husband, but Chinese law allows extraordinary powers to the father and mother-in-law with regard to their daughter-in-law, and they have been able to escape severe punishment.

What has become of the revised Penal Code?

INTERESTING TO PIECE GOODS MERCHANTS.

"A LEAK IN THE CHINESE TEAPOT."

H.E. Chang, Viceroy of the two Kwang provinces, has directed the Literary Chancellor to issue a proclamation of which the following is a literal translation:—"I, Provincial Literary Chancellor, am directed by His Excellency Chang, Viceroy of the Liang Kwong, to issue this proclamation to inform the public that on the 2nd day of the 5th moon of the 34th year of Kwong Sui, His Excellency Chang received a dispatch from the Board of Agriculture and Commerce stating that on the 4th day of the 4th moon of Kwong Sui, Lau Sit Kwan, Director of the Chamber of Commerce of the Hoi Moon District, in the Kan-Su Province, petitioned to the Board of Agriculture and Commerce calling their attention to the following matter:—"The soil of the Tung Hoi district is most suitable for cultivation of cotton. The cotton produced in that region is long, soft and very flexible, and may be said to be the best cotton produced in China. Barring American cotton, there is none which can come up to its mark in quality; even American cotton scarcely surpasses it. The cotton plant in Tung Hoi has a tall stem and its leaves are large. It bears a rich and large flower. In investigating the various records on the subject of cotton we find that its original name was called "Kut Pui" (Indian name) and the plant was originally introduced into China from India. But now Indian cotton does not bear comparison in quality with that produced in Tung Hoi. Tung Hoi cotton is rich, white, soft and flexible and is far superior in every respect to Bombay cotton. Labour has a more important bearing on this matter than the quality of the seeds from which cotton is raised. Although the cotton produced in the districts of Tung King, Tung Heung, Hoi Moon and Sai Heung is of the best quality, yet in some places the cotton is found to be superior to that grown in other districts; though raised by the same class of labourers, this may be on account of the difference in richness of the soil.

"The native cotton cloth manufactured in Tung Hoi has all along been consumed by the people of the Three Eastern Provinces. Over 100,000 bales are manufactured and disposed of annually. But in recent years foreign cloth and yarn have found their way into those markets in large quantities and the consequence is that the demand for native cloth has diminished considerably. If the manufacture of native cloth could be pushed the business would revive. If military people, police men, students and all others use native cloth to make their uniforms and clothes, then the profit and benefit will not flow into foreign countries, and the cotton industry will be stimulated and revived. I therefore beg you to memorialize the Throne requesting that regulations may be drawn up and forwarded to Viceroy and Governors of all the Provinces requesting them to give instructions to all the Bureaux within their jurisdiction to use native cloth. Thus not only Tung Hoi will benefit by it, but all the districts where native clothes are manufactured will share in the blessings &c. &c."

The Board of Agriculture and Commerce after investigating the matter made the following remarks:—

"We discovered that of late years the importation of foreign yarn and cloth is increasing daily. It is one of the great leaks in our 'tea pot' through which our money is flowing out. The cotton industry of our country is gradually dying out. The object of the Director of the Chamber of Commerce in calling our attention to this matter is to revive the native cotton cloth trade, so we feel justified in granting his request. Besides commanding all the officials to devise means to exhort the people to go in for reform and the adoption of modern methods in the manufacture of cloth thus deepening the channel for making profits and thereby stimulating commerce and industry, we also communicate with Your Excellency (Chang), and request you to give instructions to all the military departments, bureaux, and colleges, to devise means to use native cloth and to exhort all connected with these departments and institutions to promote the cotton industry, thus reviving the cotton and cloth trades and

preventing the profit and influence in the connexion from flowing out of the country. You are to report hereafter to this Board the development of this important line of trade and industry &c. &c."

On receipt of the above instructions Viceroy Chang who besides ordering all other departments to carry out those instructions has also requested me to notify all the colleges to obey the command; to devise means to use native cloth; to exhort the people to promote the cotton industry in order that the profit and influence in this line of trade may not flow out of the country, thus reviving the cotton trade; to watch the development of this industry and to collect all useful information and report it to Provincial Treasurer, and not to disobey the order &c. &c.

I have therefore issued this proclamation and trust that all officials, people and colleges will obey it. Moreover I hope the directors of the colleges will tell the students to obey the order and use native cloth to make all their clothes so as to stimulate this industry and regain the profit and influence lost. This is my great desire. Do not disobey this urgent proclamation."

CANTON.

Viceroy Chang received on the 7th instant a telegram from Toatai Chow, president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Shanghai, stating that a Cantonese merchant named Ip Yü Lin who failed in business up North is indebted to various Chinese banks in Shanghai to the extent of over 200,000 taels. Ip, after paying a 20 per cent dividend to his creditors fled to Canton. Toatai Chow requests the Viceroy to seize all Ip's properties in Canton. His Excellency has given instructions to the Nam Hoi Magistrate to arrest Ip and distrain all his properties.

A Military instructor of the reformed army surnamed Leong who was returning home with his family after a banquet at midnight on the 6th instant had a rather exciting time in Wah Ning Lane in the Walled City. His attendant, a soldier, was carrying a lantern bearing the large characters "Waiwupu." A trader coming from the opposite direction caught sight of those formidable letters, got so frightened that he did not know how to get out of the official's way, the street being very narrow, wet and slippery, and in endeavouring to avoid a collision, the unfortunate fellow missed his step and tumbled against the official's No. 6 concubine. This roused the temper of the warrior who set upon the poor fellow and ill-treated him. A policeman in the neighbourhood heard shouts of "save life," approached the scene and took Leong and his victim to the Police Station, while the attendant escorted the family home. The poor man's face was covered with blood on arrival at the police station. The case was summarily dealt with by the officer in charge of the Station and Leong was asked to pay 50 cents compensation to the injured man, and when he left, Leong was told that he could go back. But now the "Bully" was scared to death lest his victim might take revenge, and he asked for an escort to see him safely home. The Police officer gave him two men to accompany him. The Chinese papers are ridiculing the military instructor's cowardice.

An action has been filed in H.B.M.'s Supreme Court at Shanghai by Mr. J. C. Douglas, of the law firm of Home and Douglas, against Messrs. D. Landale, A. McLeod, E. C. Pearce, C. W. Wrightson and H. A. J. Macray, as directors of the Shanghai Hongkew Wharf Company, calling upon them to supply to the plaintiff as a shareholder in the Company certain particulars regarding the Company's business. The writ, as filed, is in the following terms:—"Plaintiff asks for an order by the Court that defendants do deliver to him particulars of all details specifically affecting property of the Shanghai Hongkew Wharf Company, Limited, and more especially particulars of the agreement between the company and the present manager, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, Limited, and that the defendants do submit the said agreement for inspection by the plaintiff. The case is expected to come up for trial this week."

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS:—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 10th July.—Large demands continue to come forward for rice in consequence of the floods in Kwangtung and there is consequently a strong tone in the market.

Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$5.80	to	\$5.85
" Round, Good quality ...	5.60	to	5.75
" Long	5.90	to	6.00
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	5.45	to	5.50
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	5.95	to	6.05
" White,	6.85	to	6.90
" Fine Cargo	7.00	to	7.10

Amoy June 30th.—During the month 160,797 piculs of rice have been imported, bringing up the total for the year to 886,760 piculs of which only 1,718 piculs have been re-exported.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, July 9th.—The movements in the various Opium markets during the past fortnight have been as follows:—

	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Pers'n
Stocks on the 25th June, 1908	1,058½	2,168	1,038	1,340
July 15th Imports per G. Apcar.	—	484	215	—
	1,058½	2,652	1,253	1,340
Less Exports to Shanghai ..	13	300	200	—
Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight..	192½	540	162	10
Estimated Stocks this day ..	858	1,812	891	1,330

Bengal.—There has been an improvement in the consumption, but as importers are anxious sellers, prices have further declined and Patna is quoted at \$1,055 and Benares at \$980.

Malwa.—The market has just opened at the following prices:—

Quotations are:—

2 years old	\$910
3/4 "	940/950
5 "	980
Oldest	1,000

Persian.—Unchanged.

HONGKONG, July 9th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$920	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$955	do.
Malwa Older	\$970/80	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1010/30	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$800	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$880	do.
Patna New	\$1065	per chest.
Patna Old	—	do.
Benares New	\$975	do.
Benares Old	\$—	do.

COAL.

HONGKONG, July 10th.—The arrivals since the 28th ult amounted to 45,944 tons of Japanese; 11,600 Newcastle N.S.W., and 5,950 Hongay. The coal expected is 45,000 tons of Japan coal. There have been no sales of any importance in the interval. Quotations according to Messrs. Hughes and Hough's circular are as follows:—

Cardiff	\$— to \$—	ex-ship, nominal.
Australian	\$12.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Mitki Lump	\$10.50 to \$11.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Moji Lump	\$8.00 to \$9.50	ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	\$8.00 to \$8.00	ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	\$9.00 to \$9.25	ex-ship sellers.
Labuan Lump	\$9.25	ex-ship sellers.

HONGKONG PRICES CURRENT.

HONGKONG, 11th July, 1908

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6	lbs. piece	\$1.85 to \$2.05
7 lbs.	"	2.25 to 2.55
8.4 lbs.	"	3.30 to 4.20
10 lbs.	"	4.50 to 5.45
White Shirtings—54/56 reed ..	"	3.60 to 4.15
58/60 " ..	"	5.00 to 6.50
64/66 " ..	"	6.50 to 8.00
Fine	"	9.25
Book-folds ..	"	3.50 to 6.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	"	6.04 to 2.00
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y ..	"	2.10 to 2.25
7 lbs. " ..	"	2.30 to 3.75
6 lbs. " Mexicans ..	"	2.25 to 2.30
7 lbs. " ..	"	2.35 to 4.00
8 to 8.4 oz., 36 in.) ..	"	2.90 to 4.00
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 lbs. } ..	"	4.50 to 5.50

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 6 lbs. piece ..	"	\$1.90 to \$4.25
Brocades—Dyed	yard	—
Chinese—Assorted	"	0.10 to 0.25
Velvets—Black, 22 in., ..	"	0.26 to 0.55
Velveteens—18 in., ..	"	0.22 to 0.27
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk doz. ..	"	0.50 to 1.10

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops ..	yard	\$0.70 to \$2.00
German,	"	—
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths ..	"	1.50 to 3.20
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. piece ..	"	7.75 to 9.00
Assorted	"	7.90 to 9.15
Camlets—Assorted	"	9.50 to 31.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches } ..	"	18.00 to 20.00
Assorted	"	—
Orleans—Plain	"	10.00 to 11.00
Blankets—8 to 12	lbs.	0.60 to 0.85

RAW COTTON—

Bombay	picul	\$19.50 to \$21.00
Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca ..	"	21.00 to 24.00
Shanghai and Japanese ..	"	25.00 to 26.50
Tungchow and Ningpo ..	"	25.00 to 26.50

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	picul	\$4.15
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.) ..	"	4.10
Swedish Bar	"	4.20
Small Round Rod	"	4.50
Hoop, ½ to 1½ in.	"	5.60
Wire, 16/25 oz., ..	"	9.50
Old Wire Rope	"	3.00
Lead—L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..	"	—
Australian	"	8.40
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/28 oz.	"	39.00
Vivian's, 16/32 oz., ..	"	39.00
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	"	39.00
Tin,	"	84.00
Tin-Plates,	box	7.40
Steel	cwt. case	—

MISCELLANEOUS—

Quicksilver,	picul	150.00
Window Glass,	box	4.80
Kerosene Oil,	case	—
Salt-peter, No. 1	picul	\$11.10 to 11.85
Do. No. 2	"	10.80 to 10.90
Do. No. 3	"	9.70 to 10.30

WHEATEN FLOUR—

Dayton, per bag of 50 lbs.	gross	\$2.18
Crown	"	3.00
Crescent	"	2.00
Orient	"	1.95
Sperry's XXX	"	3.00
Pioneer	"	2.42
Anchor	"	2.10
Charm	"	2.18
Junk	"	2.13
Dog	"	2.13
Cash	"	2.13
Duck, Lily	"	2.13
Pride of the West	"	2.02
Franklin	"	1.98
Star	"	2.12
Peerless	"	2.10
Kilin	"	2.08
White Lily	"	2.11
White Fawn	"	2.11
Blue Ribbon	"	2.11
Reardon	"	2.10
White Rose	"	2.17
Choice	"	2.12
Serene Sky	"	2.10
Stove	"	2.12
Dayton	"	2.12
Gluten	"	2.10
Lobston	"	2.09
Fairy Peach	"	2.08
The Boss	"	2.08
Mowtan Peony	"	2.10
Thrush	"	2.08

YARN.

HONGKONG.—Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated 10th July, states:—There has been much more doing in this market during the past fortnight. Considering the direful condition of the Southern Provinces, the grievous distress prevailing in the consuming districts, and the stagnation of trade generally throughout the country, business effected has been very large and entirely unexpected. Bombay although keeping steady is not very strong, our large neighbouring market of Shanghai is moderately active, and Cotton shows no abnormal fluctuations, and in the absence of any telegraphic intelligence, it is conjectured that the movements of the last few days in the local market were prompted more by manipulation than by any consideration of the question of demand and supply. Settlements would probably have been much larger, but shortness of supplies has curtailed business, and buyers are reluctant to operate much forward. Prices, although showing here and there some variations, are generally about the level of previous quotations and the market closes firm with a tendency to higher prices. Sales of the interval aggregate 8,925 bales, arrivals amount to 7,682 bales, unsold stock estimated at 21,000 and sold, but uncleaned yarn in second hands at about 15,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—Continue quiet. Japanese Yarn:—Very quiet and difficult to move. Raw Cotton:—We have had an entirely barren fortnight, the market being bare of stock both Indian and China staple. The meagre stock of 250 bales Bengalee as advised in last report together with the recent arrivals have been shipped off to Kobe. To-day's quotations are Indian \$20 to \$24 and China \$23 to \$26. Exchange on India has fluctuated wildly in sympathy with silver and closes today at Rs. 137½ for T/T and Rs. 137½ for Post. On Shanghai 74½ and on Japan 89½. The under-noted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the week ended the 20th instant, viz: Indian:—Have been in good enquiry from almost all the consuming markets, sales amounting to about 2,500 bales, prices showing an advance of one tael with an estimated stock of about 45,000 bales. Japanese:—There has been a better feeling in these threads and sales of about 1,200 bales are reported at steady to firm rates; business being checked at the close by increased firmness. Local:—There has been a small enquiry and sales of about 1,500 bales are reported on the basis of Tls. 82 for No. 12s, Tls. 84½ for No. 14s, and Tls. 98 for No. 16s.

EXPORTS:—

TEA.

Amoy, June 30th.—The arrivals of new season's Formosan Oolongs to date has been 60 half chests. The export of tea for the month to the United States has been 3,307,363 lbs. (against 4,123,715 lbs.) at the same time last year. To London the export was 30,170 lbs. from Tamsui (as compared with 6,783 lbs. last year).

SUGAR.

Amoy, June 30th.—The export of white sugar between 30th May and 26th June amounted to 903 piculs and of Brown 5,222 piculs. The total export since January 1st has been 1,466 piculs white and 32,134 piculs brown.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, July 10th.—The market remains very dull and there is no change in price. Quotations are \$85.00 to \$88.00.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS

Per steamer, Polynesian sailed on 18th June, 1908:—For Aden:—50 caisses cassia. For Alexandria:—14 caisses conserves. For London:—50 bales dechet de soie, 35 caisses opium. For Lyon:—373 bales soie. For Milan:—10 bales soie. For St. Chamond:—40 bales soie. For Marseille:—381 bales soie, 15 bales cheveux, 4 caisses cheveux, 250 bales dechet de soie, 21 caisses plumes, 66 colis the, 12 bales coton.

Hankow, June 24th.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best selected	Tls. 80.50
Do. Seconds	" 27.00
Buffalo hides, Best selected	" 23.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	" 8.70
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	" 8.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" 7.70
Jute	" 3.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" 10.60
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	" 10.40
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" 9.50
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" 9.80
Animal Tallow	" 10.30
Gallnuts, usual shape	" 15.25
Gallnuts, plum do.	" 18.00
Tobacco, Tingchow	" —
Tobacco, Woukoug	" —
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	" —
Turmeric	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 5.70
Sesamum Seed Oil	" —
Wood Oil	" 8.70
Tea Oil	" —

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 10th July, 1908.—Our market has continued to rule extremely dull throughout the past week, and very little business indeed has been transacted. Rates, however, have undergone but little alteration, and close steady on the whole. Bar silver is quoted to-day at 24½d, a fall on one-eighth on the week, and Exchange on London at 1/9½ T. T. Shanghai T. T. is unchanged at 74½d.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have again been booked at \$750, and more shares are to be had, though at lower rates no shares appear available notwithstanding a reported sale at \$745. London is slightly firmer again the quotation now being \$79, Nationals are unchanged with buyers at \$51.

MARINE INSURANCES.—The only sale to report in this section is of Yangtzes at \$152½. Cantons have declined to \$225 sellers, and it is probable that supplies could be had at \$220. Other stocks under this head are unchanged.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong have sold and more shares are procurable, at \$315. Chinas continue in request at \$92.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been booked at \$29, and in a small way at \$29½, closing steady at the former rate. In other stocks there is no business to report, and quotations are without change. Star Ferries, old, continue in request at \$25, and Shell Transports at 45s.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are quiet at \$130. Luzons can still be obtained at \$22.

MINING.—Charbonnages have advanced to \$580. Raubs have sellers at \$7.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been sold at \$102 and \$103, and close steady at the higher rate. Kowloon Wharves continue on offer at \$50 and New Amoy Docks at \$94. Shanghai Docks have declined to Tls. 78 ex the final dividend of Tls. 24 per share paid in Shanghai on the 7th, and Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves are on offer in the North at Tls. 215.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$97 closing with further buyers at the rate. There are also buyers of Kowloon Lands at \$26, and of Shanghai Lands at Tls. 120. West Points continue on offer at \$48, and Hongkong Hotels at \$90. Humphreys Estates have been done, and more shares are procurable at \$10.

COTTON MILLS.—Quotations are practically unchanged, and there is no business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Campbell Moores have been done at the reduced rate of \$10. Sales are also reported of Cements at \$10½, and Ropes at \$25. There are buyers of China Providents at \$94, Dairy Farms at \$19½, Electrics at \$16. Ices at the improved rate of \$230. Union Water Boats at \$1½, and United Asbestos at \$13 and \$230 for the ordinary and founders shares respectively. China Lights are procurable at \$64, Watsons at \$94, and Steam Laundries at \$6.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Pa. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$750, sellers
National B. of China	26	\$51, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7½, sellers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$104, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 \$1	\$84, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$94, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 57
Hongkong	\$10	\$11
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 67
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 85
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 242½
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$194, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$50, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$103
New Amoy Dock	\$64	\$94, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	{ Tls. 100 Tls. 100	Tls. 80, x.d.
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 222½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$104, sales & sel.
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$185
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$16, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$90, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$230, buyers
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$25, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$225, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$92, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$86½, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$315, sales & sel.
North China	\$25	Tls 78, sellers
Union	\$100	\$790, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$152½, sales
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$97, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$10, sales & sel.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$28, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 122
West Point Building	\$50	\$48, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	£cs. 250	\$580, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$7, sellers
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$14
Philippine Co.	\$1	\$2, sellers
	\$10	\$8 sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$130
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$22, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$38
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$29
Indo-China S. N. Co.	\$25	\$39, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	\$21	\$45/-
Star Ferry	\$10	\$25, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$15, sellers
South-China M. Post.	\$25	\$23, buyers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$8 sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M & Co.	\$10	\$10, sales
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$54
Watkins	\$10	\$3
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$94, sellers
Wiemann Ltd.	\$100	\$150, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$13, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$230, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$104, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, July 10th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	229
Credits 4 months' sight	233½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	186

ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	44½
Credits, 60 days' sight	45½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	137½
Bank, on demand	137½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	137½
Bank on demand	137½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	89½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	89½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	78½
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	109½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	9½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	9½ p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	83½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.80
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$56.65
BAR SILVER per oz	24½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$3.88 discount,
"	10 " "	9.30
Hongkong	20 " "	8.75
"	10 " "	8.80

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG 10th July.—There was an active demand for tonnage during the early part of the fortnight, resulting in a fair number of fixtures. The market closes weak. From Saigon to this, owing to a drop in the local rice market, only 18 cents per picul is now obtainable for medium sized carriers; to 1 port Philippines, 20/21 cents per picul has been paid; to North Coast Java and Japan, nothing doing. From North Coast Java to Hongkong, no inquiry, 20 cents being the nominal rate. From Bangkok to Hongkong, one boat fixed on liner's terms at 25 and 18 cents per picul. From Newchwang to Canton, 20 cents per picul. Coal freights are weaker. From South Japan Coal port to this, \$1.30; Singapore, \$1.50; Canton, \$2.00. From Hongay to Canton, \$1.45; to Swatow, \$1.50. The following are the settlements:—

A China Nav. Co.'s steamer, Newchwang, Tairen and Chefoo to Canton (22/24,000), 20 cents per picul.

Liangchow—British steamer, 1,215 tons, Newchwang to Canton (20/22,000), 20 cents per picul.

Nanchang—British steamer, 1,044 tons, Newchwang to Canton (20/22,000), 20 cents per picul.

Ichang—British steamer, 1,228 tons, Newchwang to Canton, (20/22,000), 20 cents per picul.

Senta—German steamer, 992 tons, Taketoyo at \$4.00 Wakama su at \$2.15 per ton to Canton.

A China Nav. Co.'s steamer, Wakamatsu to Canton, \$2.10 per ton.

Bessie Dollar—British steamer, 2,798 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.25 per ton.

Mathilda Korner—German steamer, 1,847 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.

Lauscha—German steamer, 2,056 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.

Victoria—Swedish steamer, 1,181 tons, Pulo Laut to Kolsichang, \$2.50 per ton.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Hongay to Pulo Brani, \$2.75 per ton.

Hinsang—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Hongay to Canton, \$1.45 per ton.

Ama a—British steamer, 1,666 tons, Hongay to Canton, \$1.45 per ton.

Mandal—Norwegian steamer, 1,193 tons, Sabatlik to Hongkong, \$2.00 per ton.

Taiwan—British steamer, 1,042 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 25/18 cent per picul (berth terms).

Taiwan—British steamer, 1,042 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 12 cents per picul.

Fri—Norwegian steamer, 859 tons, Saigon to 1 port Philippines, 20 cents per picul (28/30,000).

Skramstad—Norwegian steamer, 860 tons, Saigon to 1 port Philippines (28/30,000), 21 cents per picul.

Telemachus—British steamer, 1,940 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Castles—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Haldia—Norwegian steamer, 1,665 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Ragnar—Norwegian steamer, 1,220 tons, Rajang to Hongkong, \$17,750 lump sum.

Solstad—Norwegian steamer, 897 tons, monthly 1 month, at \$4,000 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

July—

ARRIVALS.

2. Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
 3. Halvay, Norwegian str., from Amoy.
 3. Minnesota, American str., from Seattle.
 3. Quarta, German str., from Hongay.
 3. Quanta, German str., from Wakamatsu.
 3. Siam, Danish str., from Kobe.
 3. Skramstad, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 3. Taming, British str., from Manila.
 3. Tjiliwong, Dutch str., from Java.
 3. Wakamiya Maru, Jap. str., from S'pore.
 4. Guadiana, French str., from Saigon.
 4. Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 4. Linan, British str., from Haiphong.
 4. Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
 4. Phumpenh, British str., from Saigon.
 4. Shinohiku Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 4. Shoshu Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
 5. Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
 5. Bujun Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 5. Capri, Italian str., from Singapore.
 5. Chinkiang, British str., from Wuhu.
 5. Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
 5. Hailan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 5. Hopsang, British str., from Moji.
 6. Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.
 5. Indramayo, British str., from New York.
 5. Kowloon, German str., from Vladivostock.
 5. Proteus, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 5. Saxonia, German str., from Manila.
 5. Taintau, German str., from Bangkok.
 6. Ella, German str., from Hamburg.
 6. Forestdale, British str., from Sourabaya.
 6. Kumano Maru, Jap. str., from Australia.
 6. Manchuria, Am. str., from San Francisco.
 6. Mandasan M., Jap. str., from Kuchinotsu.
 6. Oanfa, British str., from Manila.
 6. Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
 6. Polynesier, French str., from Yokohama.
 6. Tourane, French str., from Marseilles.
 6. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 6. Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 7. Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
 7. C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 7. Dortmund, German str., from Shanghai.
 7. Gilbert, French str., from Haiphong.
 7. Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 7. Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 7. Nikko Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 7. Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.
 7. Shoiikh, British str., from Moji.
 7. 'itan, British str., from Tacoma.
 7. Wakasa Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.
 8. Cheongshing, British str., from Tientsin.
 8. Dagny, Norwegian str., from Dalay.
 8. Elax, British str., from Palembang.
 8. Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
 8. Hangeang, British str., from Shanghai.
 8. Japan, British str., from Yokohama.
 8. Katharine Park, British str., from Callao.
 8. Kweilin, British str., from Yangtze.
 8. Lookan, German str., from Bangkok.
 8. Petohaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 8. Progress, German str., from Samoa.
 8. Queen Olga, British str., from Cardiff.
 8. Shantung, German str., from Amoy.
 8. Taihuan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 8. Volute, British str., from Tientsin.
 9. Foochow, British str., from Wuhu.
 9. Joshin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 9. Kjeld, Norwegian str., from Langkat.
 9. Knivsberg, German str., from K. C. Wan.
 9. Marmora, British str., from Bombay.
 9. Menelaus, British str., from Singapore.
 9. Prometheus, Norw. str., from Saigon.
 9. Sanuki Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 9. Tientsin, British str., from Wakamatsu.
 9. Zweena, British str., from Samarang.
- July—
- DEPARTURES.
3. Calchas, British str., for Saigon.
 3. Chunsang, British str., for Sourabaya.
 3. Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 3. Hanoi, Fren. str., for Kwang Chow Wan.
 3. Hongbae, British str., for Amoy.
 3. Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
 3. Loongang, British str., for Manila.
 3. Mandal, Norwegian str., for Sabattik.
 3. Nubia, British str., for Shanghai.
 3. Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 3. Takasaki Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 3. Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.
 4. Braemar, British str., for Java.
 4. Empress of Japan, Br. str., for Vancouver.
 4. Johanne, German str., for Haiphong.

4. Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
4. Siberia, American str., for San Francisco.
4. Theodore Wille, German str., for Chefoo.
5. Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.
5. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
5. Fooahing, British str., for Tourane.
5. Gregory Apcar, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
5. Hinsang, British str., for Hongay.
5. Kaifong, British str., for Amoy.
5. Kinkiang, British str., for Shanghai.
5. Oriol, British str., for Guam.
5. Siam, Danish str., for Singapore.
5. Shibetoro Maru, Jap. str., for Sourabaya.
5. Simongan, Dutch str., for Saigon.
5. Singan, British str., for Hoihow.
5. Solstad, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
5. Tjiliwong, Dutch str., for Swatow.
5. Wakamiya Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
6. Yesan Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
6. Kueichow, British str., for Swatow.
6. Tourane, French str., for Shanghai.
7. Hailan, British str., for Coast Ports.
7. Halvard, Norwegian str., for Singapore.
7. Hangchow, British str., for Amoy.
7. Kohsihang, German str., for Bangkok.
7. Mechow, German str., for Swatow.
7. Polynesier, French str., for Europe, &c.
7. Providence, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
7. Taming, British str., for Manila.
7. Tosa Maru, Jap. str., for Seattle, &c.
8. Dortmund, German str., for Singapore.
8. Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
8. Indramayo, British str., for Amoy.
8. Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
8. Linan, British str., for Haiphong.
8. Lord Stanley, British str., for Newcastle.
8. Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
8. Quarta, German str., for Hongay.
8. Rajah, German str., for Bangkok.
8. Shoshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
8. Wakasa Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
8. Yatsing, British str., for Ningpo.
9. Bujun Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
9. Ella, German str., for Vladivostock.
9. Kiangping, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
9. Knivsberg, German str., for Swatow.
9. Korat, German str., for Bangkok.
9. Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
9. Mandasan M., Jap. str., for Kuchinotsu.
9. Nanshan, British str., for Swatow.
9. Oanfa, Br. str., for Kuchinotsu & Seattle.
9. Peiho, French str., for Simpsonhafen.
9. Saxonia, German str., for Shanghai.
9. Skramstad, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
9. Volute, British str., for Palembang.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mrs E. Cagigao, Misses M. E. Coleman, C. Gonzales, J. N. Nichols, C. Capigao and K. Case, Surg. E. H. Old, Messrs. H. L. Beach, J. Fisher, H. Duncan, A. L. Oliver, F. S. Weston, W. F. Conroy, E. Debnore, Schukit and O. E. Carr.
- Per *Minnesota*, from Seattle via Ports, Mr and Mrs L. Roseuthal, Mr and Mrs O. Bates, Mr and Mrs A. Galland, Mrs G. Ingram, Mrs M. E. Galland, Mrs S. Holland, Mrs Evan Jones, Misses C. H. Ober, A. Manning, L. Gallie, B. McIlroy, P. Baum and B. Gallie, Dr. Evan Jones, Master J. Patterson, Messrs. K. O. Moe, J. G. Brighton, R. F. Hand, T. C. Shea, J. A. Patterson, C. S. Ya, W. Robinson and E. A. Anderson.
- Per *Polynesien*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Messrs. Filippini, Hughes, Gilbert and Russel; for Singapore, Mrs Sassoon and baby Miss Sacazans, Messrs. Kingdom Ward and Bonnet; for Samarang, Mr W. George; for Marseilles, Messrs. Jagnat, A. de la Mothe Drenzy, Lumarest and Thirs; from Kobe, for Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Donny; for Colombo, Major Hussey.
- Per *Tourane*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Courtney and boy; from Colombo, Rev. Dorothea; from Singapore, Messrs. N. D. Madie, O. R. Johnston and James Jack; from Saigon, Rev. Lefevre, and Mr E. Watkins; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mrs Zurn, boy and girl; from Singapore, Messrs. Deng and Silla; from Saigon, Mrs Ossomy, Mrs Mary Delna; for Kobe, from Colombo, Miss Kisako; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mrs Kogima Yuh, Messrs. Geo. Bochy, Gonallard, Schiller and Martin; from Colombo, Rev. and Mrs M. C. Clarke, and Miss E. L. Southworth; from Singapore, Vicomte de Perpigne, Mr Roohiram.

Per *Kwongsang*, from Shanghai, &c., Miss Masse, Masters P. and D. Dixon, Masters H. and A. Ramsey, Master Alameda, and Mr V. Stadd.

Per *Marmora*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr W. Nish; from Gibraltar, Capt. and Mrs F. Figueira, 2 children & maid; from Brindisi, Rev. H. Munger; from Bombay, Messrs. W. S. Holmes, J. Chino and J. Meherally; from Colombo, Mr B. Cherry; from Penang, Mr E. Wellmann; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs Santos and child, Major J. D. Garcia, Rev. A. Cardoso, Messrs. S. Paul, A. M. Tanteo, A. A. Cardoso, J. W. Graham, F. Vabblook and K. G. Yule; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Edmonston; from Brindisi, Mr C. Maeden; from Bombay, Mr B. Lalca; from Colombo, Mr A. Haviland; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr and Mrs C. Watney, Miss E. Redwood, Messrs. D. Jackson and J. Jeffery.

Per *Manchuria*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr and Mrs H. W. Beach, Mr and Mrs O. W. Calvin, Mr and Mrs W. T. G. Neal, Mr and Mrs H. B. Robinson, Mr and Mrs F. S. Isham, Mr and Mrs L. Schumacher, Judge and Mrs A. C. Carson, Col. and Mrs H. Hall, Mrs and (2) Misses Mak and amah, Mrs M. C. Aldrick, Mrs E. Wallace, Mrs E. E. Weston, Miss M. Aldridge, B. Carson, L. H. Gleason, M. D. Hodgen, J. Loomis, F. McGee, M. C. Young, S. Picknell and A. Eakle, Dr. J. D. Hodgen, Judge J. F. Tracy, Messrs. J. K. Brown, F. Cajules, C. E. Casay, J. R. Estes, P. Ganson, J. G. Blaser, M. Sheer, C. Thomas, C. F. Bradley, A. L. Shields, H. Scott Young and H. J. Richardson.

Per *Kumano Maru*, from Australia, &c., for Hongkong, Mr and Mrs G. Chewing, Count and Countess de Hondetot, Lieut. and Mrs H. M. Supples, Mrs W. B. Burt, Mrs G. L. Judson, Misses Neith, F. A. McCook, C. Stiles and C. la Triana, Lieut. J. D. Corby, Lieut. E. E. Lewis, Prof. J. J. McCook, Messrs. G. P. Chewing, H. L. Hayman, E. K. Hunt, C. Thorne Wille, C. Webster and W. White; for Nagasaki, Mr and Mrs H. C. Gearing, Mr and Mrs O. W. Hickoot, Mrs I. Abe, Capt. J. Pain, Master S. Abe, and Mr Winalow; for Kobe, Mr and Mrs M. Etrushaw, Mr and Mrs A. R. Roxas, Mr and Mrs H. C. Sleigh, Lieut. and Mrs R. Balter, Mrs M. Chulbi, Mrs A. Fisier, Mrs C. A. de Roxas, Miss C. S. Roxas, Mast A. Roxas, Master H. Sleigh, and Mr J. Avillers; for Yokohama, Mr and Mrs S. Josephson, Messrs. J. Dalme, J. Edwards, R. Hug, R. Sturdy and J. Villett.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Miss McElroy, Capt. R. Lawler, Messrs. J. Getting, L. Selgmann, K. O. Moe, Tovey Coxens, C. A. Kupferburg and V. Abragan.

Per *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, &c., Mr and Mrs McRetch, Mrs C. J. Farrow, Misses M. O. Berry and Little, Bishop Brent, Rev. M. Hanson, Messrs. J. P. Carter, M. H. Logan, P. McKney, Hallinan, Hagan, R. Oakden, Gibson, Williford and O. C. Pomeray.

Per *Tourane*, for Shanghai, &c., Rev. and Mrs M. C. Clarke, Mrs Kojima Yuh, Mrs Zurn, Mrs Deng Silla, Mrs Ossomy, Mrs Mary Delna, Mrs W. Young, Misses E. L. Southnorth and Kisako, Vicomte de Perpigne, Messrs. Geo. Bochy, Gonallard, Schiller, Martin, Roohiram, Oren, Opes, Taverson, Mallet, A. A. Clatworthy, Han Kock, Manuel Glumes, Niyamoto, Takaki, Alexandre Kalos, Lorenzi Guiseppe and Raznatovitch.

Per *Polynesien*, for Marseilles, &c., Mr and Miss Donny, Mrs Sassoon, Mrs de Lormant, Mrs Roux Indigento, Miss Sacazans, Major Hussey, Dr. B. van Helsing, Comte de Hondetot, Frere Antonin, Frere Louix, Messrs. Gonguillin, Rignelet, Frigen, Duconlombier, Le Gouz, Mercier, Torquy, Daniel, Olivier, Marchal, Lefevre, Crapoid, Muller, Mariani, Martin, Nily, Pivion, O. C. Tong, Jaquet, Dupin de la Nothe Drenzy, Dumarest, Theis, Dantheville, Pe Segin, P. F. King, Quental, Le Bris, Brown, Cossie, Bonton, Barraine, Fricourt, W. George, Kingdom Ward, Saleh Shabani, Bonnet, A. L. Stain, Yedo Tanaka, G. M. Barry and Chas. Stirling.

Printed and published by BENJAMIN AUGER'S
HALL, for the Concerned, at 10A, Des Voeux
Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong.
London Office 131, Fleet Street, E.C.